



The truth is, we all have been sent. Jesus was SENT into this world to rescue us. He was SENT to save. Likewise, Jesus SENT us into our homes, communities, and world with His message of salvation. We are SENT to share. No matter what we do, where we go, or who we meet, the inescapable directive of our lives is this: we are SENT.

# **Philosophy of Falls Creek Program**

Falls Creek Youth Camp exists to support local churches in their effort to reach lost students in their community and to raise up a generation of teenagers who have an authentic walk with God and who actively share their faith.

The morning schedule is designed for believers, to challenge them to walk with and share about God more consistently and to know God deeper through relevant worship and creative Biblical teaching. The yearly theme is selected from a three-year cycle which emphasizes the root issues in the Christian student's journey: (1) Knowing the Character and Nature of God, (2) Spiritual Disciplines, and (3) Evangelism. The 2010 focus is Evangelism.

The afternoon and evening schedule is designed to direct students still on their way to knowing God, toward a decision concerning their relationship with God. Tuesday through Friday night in the tabernacle, the gospel will be clearly presented and an opportunity for students to respond will be provided.

Throughout the week of camp, there is a high priority on Scripture, relevant worship, relationships within the local church, and providing opportunities for students and sponsors to sharpen their skills and prepare to consistently serve God after camp. Falls Creek is a camp designed to reach and equip the students of Oklahoma, but it is open to churches across the nation who share the Biblical values of the churches of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Falls Creek Youth Camp is supported by Oklahoma Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program. Thank you Oklahoma Baptists for challenging students to know Christ by giving to the Cooperative Program.



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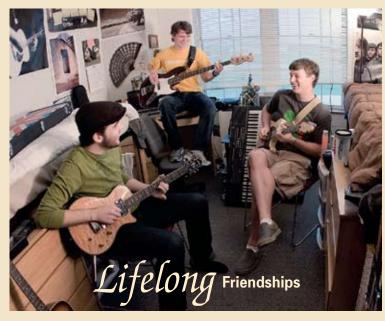
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Daily Schedule	6	Insurance	33-34
Special Events	6	Invitation	34
Office Hours/Schedules	6	Adult Leadership Investment	34
What Happens?	7	Mission Strategy	34-35
Week by Week at the Creek	8-9	Morning Bible Study	35
Welcome Letter from Dr. Anthony Jordan	10	OBU	35
About Sponsor Book 2010	10	One Hour of Solitude	35
		Parking	35
PART 1: BEFORE CAMP		Pictures	36
		Recreation	37-39
1.1 Preparation		Seating in the Tabernacle	40
How to Get Ready for Falls Creek	11	Special Needs Students/Sponsors	40
First Year at Falls Creek	13	Standard Design Contest	40
Checklist for Falls Creek 2010 Preparations	14	Strange and Fun Stuff	40
		T-Shirts	41
1.2 Falls Creek Ideas	1.5	T-Shirt Design Contest	41
Prayer Preparation Ideas	15	Youth Minister's Wives Fellowship	41
Pre-Camp Ideas	15	Watch Falls Creek from Home	41
Skopos Blog	15	WiFi At Falls Creek	41
Group Ideas	16-17		
"Back at Home" Ideas	17	2.2 In-Cabin Bible Study Mate	
		Introduction	42
1.3 Registration	10	Tuesday In-Cabin Bible Study Material	43-46
Five Elements of Participation	19	Wednesday In-Cabin Bible Study Material	47-49
Statement for Participation in Falls Creek Youth Cam		Thursday In-Cabin Bible Study Material	50-53
Code of Conduct for Falls Creek Youth Weeks	21	Friday In-Cabin Bible Study Material	54-56
Dress Code	21	00 6 1: W II /F : 4	
Adult Sponsors	22	2.3 Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening (	abın
Registration	22-23	Devotional Ideas	F-7
1.4 Farms		Introduction	57
			58-59
1.4 Forms	0.4	Monday Evening Devotional	/0/1
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010	24	Tuesday Evening Devotional	60-61
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010	25	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional	62-63
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010	25 26-27	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional	62-63 64-65
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form	25 26-27 28-29	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional	62-63
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile	25 26-27 28-29 30	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional	62-63 64-65
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form	25 26-27 28-29	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps	62-63 64-65 66-67
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card	25 26-27 28-29 30	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map	62-63 64-65 66-67
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile	25 26-27 28-29 30	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card	25 26-27 28-29 30	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds	25 26-27 28-29 30 31	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest	25 26-27 28-29 30 31	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information Cook-Off	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information Cook-Off Crisis Intervention Counseling – LPC	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information Cook-Off Crisis Intervention Counseling - LPC Emergency Procedures	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information Cook-Off Crisis Intervention Counseling – LPC Emergency Procedures First Aid	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 33 33 33	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71
Adult Release and Waiver Form 2010 Student Release and Waiver Form 2010 Parent Information about Falls Creek 2010 Volleyball/Softball Registration Form Falls Creek Student Profile Falls Creek 2010 In-Cabin Spiritual Decision Card  PART TWO: AT CAMP  2.1 Around Grounds Banner Contest Baptism at Falls Creek Bus Schedule Cabin Check-In & Maintenance Contact Information Cook-Off Crisis Intervention Counseling - LPC Emergency Procedures	25 26-27 28-29 30 31 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32	Tuesday Evening Devotional Wednesday Evening Devotional Thursday Evening Devotional Friday Evening Devotional  2.4 Falls Creek Maps Cabin Map Numerical Cabin Map Key Recreational Map Alphabetical Cabin Map Key	62-63 64-65 66-67 68 69 70 71

### MONDAY

1:30-4:30 p.m. Registration (north tabernacle entrance)

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. Seat Reservations (south tabernacle entrance)

7:00 p.m. Invitation Training (chapel exterior doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

7:15 p.m. Tabernacle Doors Open

7:45 p.m. Evening Tabernacle Experience

10:15 p.m. Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional

11:45 p.m. Inside Cabins

# TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY

8:45 a.m. Breakfast

9:10 a.m. Doors Open for HS Morning Tabernacle Experience

9:15 a.m. Staff/Sponsor Daily Update (chapel)

9:30 a.m. HS Morning Tabernacle Experience (dismiss at 10:40 a.m.)

# TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY (CONT)

10:05 a.m. Doors Open for MS Morning Tabernacle Experience

(south tabernacle entrance/dismiss at 11:10)

10:50 a.m. HS Quiet Time (cabin)

11:30 a.m. In-Cabin Bible Study

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Recreation & Free Time

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. Seat Reservations (south tabernacle entrance)

7:15 p.m. Tabernacle Doors Open

7:45 p.m. Evening Tabernacle Experience (dismiss at 9:00 p.m.)

10:15 p.m. Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional

11:45 p.m. Inside Cabins

# Monday

7:00 p.m. Invitation Training - Massey Chapel (exterior doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

9:00 p.m. Open Skate and Indoor Ropes Challenge - Amphitheater Missions Village Open

# Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Invitation Training - Massey Chapel (exterior doors open at 6:45 p.m.)

7:45 p.m. Adult Leadership Investment - Massey Chapel

9:15 p.m. Late Night with OBU - Ampitheater

Missions Village Open

# Wednesday

1:30 p.m. T-shirt and Standard Design Contest - Amphitheater 7:45 p.m. Adult Leadership Investment - Massey Chapel 9:15 p.m. Late Night with OBU! - Ampitheater Missions Village Open

# **Thursday**

4:30 p.m. GO Students 2010 Party - Wynn Center for World Missions

5:00 p.m. Cook Off Contest - Cafeteria

9:00 p.m. Youth Minister's Wives Fellowship - Massey Chapel

9:15 p.m. Mission Late Night -Meet at the Missions Village

# Friday

9:15 p.m. Missions Village Open

# Office

Monday - Friday: 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Saturday: 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

# **First Aid Station**

Monday - Friday: 9:00-11:30 a.m. / 1:30-5:15 p.m. / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

## Gift Shop

Monday: 1:30-7:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. / 1:00-7:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

# **T-shirt Shop**

Monday: 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

# **Post Office**

Monday: 1:00-5:00 p.m. Tuesday - Friday: 1:30-5:30 p.m.

# Concessions Main Plaza

Monday - Friday: 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 10:30-11:30 a.m. / 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

# **West End**

Monday - Friday: 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: Morning hours TBA for Adult Leaders only / After Evening Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

# **Riverfront Recreation Field**

Tuesday - Friday: 1:00-5:30 p.m.

## Ice Dock

Monday: 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. / 2:30-5:30 p.m.

# Prayer Garden

6:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

1:30-5:30 p.m.

# OFFICE HOURS & **Boulder Springs & Trails** SCHEDULES

# VHAT HAPPENS?

# Quiet Time MS 9:30-9:50 a.m. & HS 10:50-11:15 a.m.

In-cabin time when students can be alone with God. Middle school and high school students alternate their quiet time around the Morning Tabernacle Experience (middle school 9:30-9:50 a.m./high school 10:50-11:15 a.m.). A short private worship guide on the theme of the day will be provided for students in the student book, given to every church/person at registration on Monday. The guide can also be downloaded prior to camp at www.skopos.org.

Staff/Sponsor Daily Update 9:15-9:25 a.m.

A member of the Falls Creek Youth Ministry Staff will meet with at least one sponsor from each church for a ten-minute meeting and prayer time to give daily camp updates in the Massey Chapel on the north end of the tabernacle.

Morning Tabernacle Experiences 9:30-11:10 a.m.

High school students begin their tabernacle experience at 9:30 a.m.; middle school students will join high school students for worship at 10:05 a.m. After worship at 10:40 a.m., high school students will exit as the middle school teaching time begins. Norman Flowers, Andy Harrison and Todd Sanders, and a few special quests along with the praise and worship leaders for the week, will challenge students to understand more about being Sent with the gospel.

In-Cabin Bible Study 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

In-cabin Bible study and challenge is a cornerstone of Falls Creek. Students should meet with their individual churches in their cabins.

This book contains the teaching materials for the in-cabin Bible study, Tuesday through Friday. Students will have the student version of the Bible study material in their Student Guide provided at registration. If you would like additional copies of the Bible study materials, you may download them for free at www.skopos.org. Video teaching and illustrations for the morning Bible study are available on the DVD provided with your promotional material or for download at skopos.org.

With new improvements to the video teaching resource, the Bible study option in Massey Chapel will not be provided this summer. All churches will need to have Bible study in their cabins. This means each church needs to either prepare to teach live, or, if using the video resource, bring it's own TV and DVD player or other audio-visual set up.

**Recreation 1:30-5:15 p.m.** 

At Falls Creek, there are more recreational options than any person or group could possibly do in a week. Churches may choose to participate in any of the recreational options available or they may design their own recreational program. The tournament recreation will be at the Riverfront Recreation Field. For more information, turn to page 37.

Evening Tabernacle Experience 7:45-9:00 p.m.

The Evening Tabernacle Experience is the culmination service each evening. Energetic praise, preaching, and a public invitation (Tue - Fri) make this service one of the signatures of Falls Creek.

Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional 10:15 p.m.

In-cabin devotionals, led by local church leadership, reflect on the specific needs and issues of the youth group. A devotional guide is provided in this book on pages 56-62 as a resource to any group leader wanting devotional ideas or plans. Churches may, if they choose, begin their devotional time before 10:15 p.m. since students have free time between 9:00-10:15 p.m. Every group should be in their cabin by 10:15 p.m. Small groups, without a sound system, may meet around their cabin (e.g. on the porch) until 11:45 p.m., unless the group causes a distraction to other cabins. After 11:45 p.m. all groups should be inside their cabin.



# WEEK BY WEEK AT THE CREEK

# WEEK 1 JUNE 7-11



**Nick Thurmond Worship Leader** 



Jeff Wallace **Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 2 JUNE 14-18



**Kyle Cantrell** Worship Leader



Afshin Ziafat **Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 3 JUNE 21 25



Matt Roberson **Worship Leader** 



Mike Keahbone **Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 4 JUNE 28 - JULY 2



**Dutton Band** Worship Leader



**Skit Guys** Evening Speaker

# WEEK AT THE CREEK WEEK BY

# WEEK 5 JULY



**Dutton Band Worship Leader** 



Skit Guys **Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 6 JULY 12-16



Chris Orr Worship Leader



**Tony Lambert Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 7 JULY 19



Chris Orr **Worship Leader** 



Mark Matlock **Evening Speaker** 

# WEEK 8 JULY 26 - 30



Cody Dunbar Worship Leader



**Andy Harrison Evening Speaker** 

# AN OPEN LETTER FROM DR. ANTHONY JORDAN

Welcome to Falls Creek! This is going to be one of the most important weeks in your life and in the lives of your teens. Some and perhaps many of your youth will encounter God for the very first time. They will come to know His love and forgiveness. Others will rediscover the joy of their salvation as they turn to their Lord in obedience. There will be those who, like me 46 years ago, will hear the voice of God calling them to missions and ministry. You will get to be a part of their lives and witness the dramatic change God will bring into their walk with Him.

This is our fourth year in the new 7,250 seat climate controlled tabernacle. It is a beautiful place to worship the Lord, filled with all kinds of technology that will enhance your worship experiences. There are giant screens, a powerful sound system and, best of all, air conditioning!!! It received rave reviews from campers and sponsors last year. The tabernacle is an unbelievable place, and I hope you enjoy worshiping in this beautiful setting.

But the Falls Creek experience is not about buildings or even the tremendous recreational opportunities available. It is about time spent with other young people, sponsors and most importantly God Himself. Falls Creek is about meeting God in a personal way. Every part of the Falls Creek experience is designed to bring your youth closer to God than ever before.

Let's get the 93rd session of Falls Creek Baptist Youth Assembly started!

Yours in Christ,

Anthony Jordan Executive Director-Treasurer Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

# ABOUT SPONSOR BOOK 2010

The Sponsor Book has two parts. Part One is filled with information you need before camp. It includes ideas, registration information, checklists, forms, and sponsor information. Part Two is an at-camp resource. Around Grounds (Part Two, Section One) is an alphabetical listing of things you need to know during your week at camp. Teaching guides for both your 11:30 a.m. and 10:15 p.m. in-cabin times are found in Part Two as well.

# New Stuff in 2010:

Missions Village	page 35
Pin Trading	page 40
Youth Minister's Wives Fellowship	page 41
In-Cabin Bible Study Changes	page 42



# SECTION 1.1 - PREPARATION

# HOW TO GET READY FOR FALLS CREEK

An itemized preparation check list is on page 14.

# **Reserve Housing**

First things first, make sure you have a cabin reserved for the week you plan to attend Falls Creek. You can view all the cabin descriptions through the Cabin Information System online at www.skopos.org. If you do not have a cabin reserved, see what cabins are still available online at www.skopos.ora or contact the Falls Creek Office at (580) 369-2101 for a cabin list.

# **Recruit Sponsors/Cooks**

Great adult sponsors are essential for a great week at camp. We recommend recruitingat least one adult per ten students. For more information about recruiting/training sponsors for your camp week, look at page 22. Tips for cooks, meal planning and purchasing are listed on our website at www.skopos.org.

# **Register Online**

Complete your online registration before you arrive at Falls Creek. A few changes can be made at the onsite registration on Monday but before you leave for camp all campers' names must be entered and release form boxes checked. To get started with registration, go online to www.skopos.org. You will not pay for your registration until you arrive at camp. More registration information is on pages 22-23.

# **Develop Prayer Strategy**

Organize a prayer strategy for the week. Ideas for prayer are listed on page 15.

## **Publicize Your Week**

Use resources sent in the camp packet (posters, logos, DVD, etc.) as well as your church's website, facebook, or YouTube to get the word out to students in your community. Promotional ideas are listed on page 15.

# **Organize Daily Activities**

Organize recreation, meals, transportation, and sponsors for your group. Go to page 28-29 or online at www.skopos.org for the recreation form. You should complete the form before coming to registration on Monday.

# Morning Tabernacle Schedule

Middle school and high school students will meet separately in the tabernacle for the morning experience again this year. As high school students leave for the Morning Tabernacle Experience, middle school students will begin their quiet time in your cabin. At 10:05 a.m. the south doors will open for middle school students to enter. When the middle school students enter at 10:05, the high school students will begin the worship time. At 10:40 a.m., the high school students will be dismissed out of the north exit doors to return to their cabin for their quiet time and the middle school students will move forward for their teaching time. Organize your sponsors so that you have enough adults to supervise your middle school students, high school students and in your cabin.

# **Prepare In-Cabin Bible Study** with improved resources!

Prepare for the in-cabin teaching times on Tuesday-Friday mornings. A Bible study guide is printed on pages 42-56. The Camp Resource DVD provides video sessions designed to teach section 1 & 2 of the Bible study material. Video sessions are designed to teach section one and section two of the Bible study material. The video resource also includes discussion questions to create an all-in-one resource to help guide your time effectively. Youmay use the video sessions or teach live. It is your choice! Even if you choose to use the video, the guide in this book is still useful for an opening review, large group Q&A, and family group guestions. You may also download the print and video resources from www.skopos.org.

Please note, with new improvements to the video teaching resource, Bible study in Massey Chapel will not be provided this summer. All churches will need to have Bible study in their cabins. This means each church needs to either prepare to teach live or bring a TV and **DVD** player or other audio visual set up.

# Plan Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening **Cabin Devotional**

Plan the cabin wrap-up/devotion time in your cabin for each night. The late night cabin wrap-up should prioritize giving students time to process and apply the information they have gained throughout the day, rather than presenting new information. The devotional should also allow students to share their decisions or to make spiritual decisions. Some camp staff will be available each week to teach devotionals if you need assistance. You can sign up for a cabin devotional speaker at registration on Monday, but it is best to come prepared to lead devotionals each night. See the guide on pages 57-67.

# **Prepare for In-Cabin Spiritual** Counseling

Many of the decisions made at Falls Creek are made in the individual church cabins. Each church is responsible for planning and preparing for the counseling times that should happen in your cabin each day. The Falls Creek leadership recommends each student, at least once during the week of camp, has an opportunity to meet one-on-one with an adult from their church to talk about spiritual matters. An adult should ask each student about their spiritual journey to see if there is any way that they could help them in their journey. A reproducible decision card for in-cabin decisions is on page 31. These cards should remain with your group. It is provided as a resource for churches that do not already have a decision card for their cabin times.

# **Complete Release Forms**

Make copies of your completed release forms for each of your students, sponsors, children and cooks (copies of all forms are on pages 24-25 or online at www.skopos.org). The parent or guardian for each student must sign the release form. All release forms (student and adult) must be alphabetized together by last name and turned in at registration on Monday. Only the Falls Creek 2010 release forms are allowed for registration. It is imperative that you make an additional copy of all the release forms and bring them to camp. At registration on Monday, you will turn in your originals and keep your copies. The additional copies of the release forms are for any emergency trips to the hospital and for your trip home.

# **Hosting a Pre-Camp Parent Meeting**

Organize pre-camp preparation meetings for parents, sponsors and students. In your precamp meeting, pass out the parent information handout on pages 26-27 or online at www. skopos.org, have the parents sign their child's release form and distribute a camper packing list specific to your church.

Here are some suggestions for your camper packing list:

# **Camper Packing List Suggestions**

- Modest clothing for five days (see dress code)
- Bible
- Notepad
- Spending money for concessions

# Recreation Items

- Extra clothes that can get wet or dirty
- Long shorts (see dress code)
- Closed toe shoes for the ropes course
- Swimsuit (if two piece, bring a dark t-shirt)
- Skateboard, helmet and pads (Falls Creek provides pads if needed)
- Softball alove
- Volleyball (balls for games are provided)
- Basketball
- Fishing Tackle, etc...

# **Cabin Items**

- Pillow
- Bedding
- Towels
- Hygiene products (don't bring shaving cream unless you shave!)
- Sunscreen/Bug Spray

**Rules Video Contest** 

Falls Creek Youth Camp is hosting a Rules Video Contest this year. There will be one winner for June and one winner for July. The winning video may be shown during the pre-session of the Monday Evening Tabernacle Experience. If your youth group wants to produce a two minute (or less) video containing the rules listed below, they can submit it by DVD to: BGCO. Student Ministry Offices, 3800 N. May Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. If you are attending camp during Week 1-4, please submit your video by May 15. If you are attending camp during Week 5-8, please submit your video by June 15. You could also use your rules video for your own pre-camp parent meeting.

The video must include these four rules:

- 1. Honor the adult sponsors.
- 2. No food or drink in the tabernacle.
- 3. Honor the camp dress code.
- 4. Wear your wristband at all times.

# How to get to Falls Creek

Falls Creek is just outside of Davis, Oklahoma off Interstate Highway 35, exit number 51. Highway and regional signs will direct you to the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center grounds after you exit I-35. The physical address for Falls Creek is: 6714 HWY 77D, Davis, OK 73030-8002

# **Monday Arrival at Camp**

Here is the entrance you should use on Monday:

South (Main) Gate Cabin # 100's

700, 701, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 717

North Gate

Remainder of the 700's

At the gates, you will be asked to provide the name of your church and the number of people in your vehicle. You will not register at the gate on Monday. Church groups should not arrive before 8:00 a.m. on Monday. All aroups or individuals arriving after Monday at 4:30 p.m. will need to check in at the office for registration assistance. You may also take part in late night registration after the service on Monday evening if arriving late. At registration you will register and pay for your group, schedule recreation options and picture times, have the opportunity to enlist summer or missionary staff to speak in your cabin, receive parking tags, student books, and registration bracelets.

For registration, register online at skopos.org, bring your alphabetized, original release forms (please merge sponsor forms with student forms), full payment for your group, recreation form, and any questions that you may have, to the north side of the tabernacle from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Registration should take less than one hour. If you have not attended one of the five regional preparation meetings in April or May, you will need to bring as many sponsors as possible to the orientation video loop at registration to get the updated information about the week at camp. The orientation video loop is continuous all Monday afternoon.

On Monday night, sponsors from your church can reserve seats for the whole group in advance, see page 40 for details. Please understand that all seating is first come, first served. Groups may save seats only for the exact number needed for their group. Please do not leave an empty row between your group and another group, fill in all available empty seats. Your group should always sit together; please do not allow your students to sit by themselves in the tabernacle. The doors to the tabernacle will not open for students until 7:15 p.m. each night.

# SO IT IS YOUR FIRST YEAR AT FALLS CREEK...

Falls Creek is a unique camp in many ways: you bring your own cooks and food, you cook in your cabin in your own kitchen, you select and rent your own cabin, you design the mid-morning in-cabin Bible study, morning quiet time, recreation time, and evening cabin devotional for the unique needs of your group and much more. Falls Creek is both rustic and modern with many varieties of cabins, rough hills, state of the art technology in the services, and access to missionaries and on-site or global mission opportunities.

The camp programming is generally designed for believers in the morning and lost students in the evening. Each week we typically host over 4,000 believers and more than 500 lost students. In most cabins, 15-20% of the students coming with their group are not believers. We understand these dynamics and are sensitive to the unique responsibility of hosting that many lost students each week.

Falls Creek requires much preparation, but it has incredibly rich benefits. You do not need to pay a deposit to the camp to register your group, just reserve your cabin and pay the cabin deposit to the cabin owner. You do not need to give the camp your final list of attendees until you arrive on Monday, allowing you to bring more late registering guests. Because of the generosity of Oklahoma Baptists, your registration fee is incredibly low which allows more un-churched and lower income students to attend camp. You have access to one of the largest ropes courses in North America at no additional cost. The camp-wide worship experiences in the mornings and evenings are planned and coordinated, allowing you to spend more time developing the other in-cabin times with your students.

Please know that we understand how hard it is to find a cabin at Falls Creek. Most of the weeks of camp are completely booked by January, leaving you very few options to get into a cabin. Now that you are in, we want to help you in any way that we can. No question is off limits. Feel free to e-mail us at youth@bgco.org, call (405) 942-3000 ext. 4388 or go to the Falls Creek page at www.skopos.org. During each morning of camp, we will meet from 9:15-9:25 a.m. in Massey Chapel with one person from each church to answer questions and give a quick, daily camp update.



# Rent your own Cabin

Every church attending Falls Creek Youth Camp rents their own cabin(s) for their week at camp. To rent a cabin, first find options that work well for your group in the Cabin Information System on www.skopos.org. Then, contact the cabin owners (churches or associations) to work out a contract or get on their waiting list. Each church, in addition to securing their own cabin, also provides their own meals, brings their own sponsors, and plans and implements their own in-cabin activities.

# **Five Elements of Participation**

There is a great deal of flexibility and personalization for your group at Falls Creek. But, all churches attending the Falls Creek Youth Camp have five elements they must agree to for participation: (1) attendance in the Morning Tabernacle Experience, (2) attendance in the Evening Tabernacle Experience, (3) adherence to the dress code, (4) adherence to the code of conduct, and (5) group participation in a morning in-cabin Bible study and evening wrap-up.

# **YOUTH CAMP BASICS (cont...)**

# **Register Online**

Registration for all eight weeks of youth camp is found online at www.skopos.org. Everyone you bring to camp must be registered online. You can edit your information until you arrive at camp on Monday. At the onsite registration, you will receive a final copy of your forms and registration wristbands once full payment is made.

# **Registration Fees**

The cost per person (student or adult) from a BGCO church is \$6.00 a day or \$30.00 per week for the full-time registrant. The cost per person from a non-BGCO church is \$9.00 a day or \$45.00 per week for the full-time registrant. Registration fees are paid on Monday of your camp week.

	2009	PREPARATIONS
Pray for everyone God will bring to camp.		
Develop a plan to enlist students for camp.		
Secure a cabin and transportation for your church.		
Select the lead sponsor for your church.		
Select sponsors (at least one sponsor for every ten youth).		
Select cooks for your cabin (every cabin provides its own food and		
Go online to www.skopos.org to register for camp. Updates and cl		
registration can be made at any time until Monday afternoon of y		
Consider theme nights or a theme verse for your cabin. See page		
Enlist and train sponsors and upperclassmen students to serve du		vitation training
will be held in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. S		·r · ·
Order camp t-shirts (see page 41) or design your own t-shirt, stan	aara and/or banner,	if you plan to
enter the contest (see page 41) Plan meals and purchase food.		
Purchase a First Aid Kit for your cabin.		
Divide the youth into teams/families for prayer and discussion do	uring vour cahin devo	tion and in-cahin
Bible study. See page 42.	oring your cabin acro	non and in Cabin
Prepare your morning in-cabin Bible study and evening cabin dev	otional. Cabin devotic	onal ideas are
included on page 57 and the in-cabin Bible study materials are in		
online at www.skopos.org.		
Plan other in-cabin activities and the spiritual emphasis for your	group.	
Hold a parent/camper meeting:		
Make sure all release forms are signed and returned. (When they	are filled out make a	an extra copy, alphabetize them and bring both sets
to camp.) Blank forms are on pages 24-25 or online at www.skop		
Hand out and read through the Parent Information (on pages 26-		skopos.org), give out emergency phone numbers, etc.
Share the rules and expectations of your church and the Falls Cre	ek Code of Conduct.	
Introduce the adult sponsors to the students and parents.		
Create and distribute a camper packing list (for ideas see the list	on page 12).	
Sign students up for recreation activities.		
Complete the Recreation Form for group recreation (see pages 28		ne at www.skopos.org).
Secure correct change or check to pay for registration on Monday		
Register at the tabernacle Monday from 1:30-4:30 p.m.		
RDING TO DEGISTRATION.		

1. Cash or check for registration fee. (Make checks payable to the BGCO.)

2. Alphabetized Release Forms (Sponsors and students merged)

3. Volleyball/Softball Registration Form

# SECTION 1.2 FALLS CREEK IDEAS

The student ministry website, www.skopos.org now hosts a blog. You can visit the resources page on skopos to find the blog where you can read/post on topics such as cabins, registration promotion, recreation, missions, and more.

# Prayer Preparation Ideas

It does not matter how much physical preparation is done for the summer if there is no prayer. Listed below are several ideas for preparing your church and your students for Falls Creek. Pick any of the ideas below to create and implement a plan for prayer as a vital part of the week at camp.

**Prayer Guide** 

Available online at www.skopos.org is a 30-day prayer guide designed to begin on Sunday, four weeks before your group leaves for Falls Creek. Distribute the prayer guide to every student and adult involved in or committed to Falls Creek this summer.

**Fasting** 

Teach the students the meaning of fasting, then fast for a meal or full day the week before camp. Focus the fast on prayer for lost students and the purity of all Christians who attend camp.

# **Prayer Walk**

When your group arrives at camp, send your leadership students out with a prayer walk guide. Ask them to walk around camp and pray in groups of two or three for all the major areas of camp.

# **Prayer Partner**

Link up students with an adult prayer partner before the week of camp. This adult should not be one of the adults who will attend Falls Creek as a sponsor.

# **Wristbands**

Write all the names of students and adults attending Falls Creek on a "hospital bracelet" and place them on the altar at the church. Encourage adults to pick up one of the wristbands the Sunday before camp and wear it all week as a prayer reminder.

# **Parent Prayer**

Assian volunteer parents and adults a day of prayer for the group. Distribute all of the names of the students to the parents and adults for their day of prayer.

# **Advance Prayer**

For several weeks, meet regularly with the sponsors who will attend Falls Creek to prepare and pray for the students who will attend camp.

# **Commissioning Service**

Sunday night before camp hold a "commissioning service" to pray for and prepare the students for Falls Creek

# **Your Own Prayer Strategy**

Use your own prayer strategy. No matter which method you choose to pray for Falls Creek, please add to your prayer list the overall safety of the camp, the Falls Creek leadership and the camp staff.

# **Pre-Camp Ideas**

Before you leave for camp and on the way to camp, you might want to consider a few of these ideas to enhance your group camp experience!

# On the Way to Camp

As you exit I-35 for Falls Creek, quickly give final instructions to your group, then ask your students to spend one minute silently praying for God to speak to them during the week. Just before you enter the gate, ask one person to pray out loud for the whole group.

If you have a theme song for your week, play the theme song as you enter the camp grounds.

# **Letters from Home**

Consider asking parents to write their students a letter during Sunday School the day before your group leaves. You can bring the letters with you and distribute them or you can ask parents to mail the letters to camp. For students that will not get any mail from home, ask a Sunday School teacher to write all the students in their class. If you mail the letters, please address mail as follows: Name of Camper, Church Name/Cabin Name and Number, Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center, 6714 HWY 77D, Davis, OK 73030-8002. The Falls Creek Office cannot sign for packages, so please do not allow packages to be sent to your cabin.

# **Promotional Videos**

Promotional videos are found on the DVD in your camp packet and are also available for download from www.skopos.org. There are several promotional videos that can be utilized during your weekly youth service up until your week of camp. Also, you can produce your own promo videos that you can upload to your vouth ministry's website or share with students on YouTube

# **Promotional Posters**

Provided in your camp materials are three unique posters for your camp promotional needs. These posters can be used in the community and in your youth room to encourage students to sign up for your week of camp. Ask local businesses, gas stations, restaurants, coffee shops, sporting venues, etc. if you can display a poster in their window.



# **Ideas For Your Group**

Below is a random list of ideas gathered from many groups at Falls Creek over the past several years. Consider a few ideas for your group to do in your cabin or around grounds while you are at camp.

# **Encouragement Notes**

Give each student a 9 x12 envelope to decorate on Monday when you arrive, then mount all the envelopes on a wall in the cabin. Leave paper and pencils around a table for students to write notes to put in the envelopes for others. Provide simple rules for the notes so they stay focused on encouragement.

# **Student Leadership**

Prior to camp, assign your student leaders a responsibility for camp preparation and a role during camp. If they know early, students can help teach your in-cabin Bible studies, share their testimony, help with lights out, plan incabin recreation options, etc.

# **Prayer Walking**

Instead of just coming early to the tabernacle to sit each evening, teach your students to prayer walk. Each evening when the students arrive at the tabernacle, encourage the group to prayer walk for the invitation, themselves, their peers and the leadership of the service. Prayer walking can be done in silent as students walk through the aisles or students could gather before the service at the altar in small groups to pray for the service.

# **Plan Morning Quiet Time**

Think through how to create an environment in your cabin for quiet times. You can play music or have a sponsor pray over their group before they have their private devotional time. Consider beginning your morning quiet time as a group so you can teach 3-5 minutes on how to have a private time of worship. After you teach your students how, send them to a part of the cabin to read and study (not to their bunks!). Make sure students can start on time and end on time because of the tight morning schedule.

# **Establish New Spiritual Traditions**

Talk with the upper classmen attending this year and brainstorm a new Falls Creek tradition they can pass on to the next generation.

Traditions can be funny or serious. Some ideas might include: reading a book of the Bible out loud as a group, taking communion together, unique prayer times, special meals, upperclassmen encouraging the younger students, etc. If your group has the tradition of doing pranks in the cabin or around grounds, change the tradition to something more encouraging and God-honoring.

# **Recreation Coordinator**

Assign one adult in the group to be the recreation coordinator of the group. They can help students get into the tournaments, plan recreation for rainy days and even create ideas for late night activities before the devotional times. Make sure every person in the group has something to do during recreation. If students do not sleep during recreation, they sleep better at night.

# **Lights Out**

Every group has issues getting students to sleep each night. Invent a special way for your group to do lights out. Some groups turn off the lights and pray out loud for the next day. Some groups get all the students in bed and then sponsors go bunk to bunk to pray with each student. Some groups sing a certain song each night, etc. Create your own special way to go to sleep each night. Some students have not had anyone encourage them as they went to sleep since they were a baby.

# **Family Groups**

We suggest that you put students into "families" for discussion groups during the morning in-cabin Bible study and the evening cabin devotional. You can organize these groups in a way that works best for your students (grade, school, coed, or not), but make sure an adult or two is in every group to facilitate the discussion. To help the sponsors learn more about students in their family groups, have the students complete a Student Profile found on page

**30.** Come up with creative names or themes for each family group (animals, foods, colors, etc). You can even use the family groups for recreation, KP, worship preparation, etc. When students spend time working together, communication in the small group settings will improve when they are discussing significant spiritual issues. Ideas for the small groups are provided with the morning in-cabin Bible study guide and the evening devotional guide.

# Theme Nights/Days

Many groups have special meals or themes for each day or evening to add interest to the day. Consider an emphasis for each day so students can bring clothing for that day's theme: Fiesta Night, Dress-Up Night, 80's Night, All American Night, etc. Be creative, but make sure the theme will not distract other groups or the goals of camp, especially if they wear their theme gear to the evening service. Just because it is a creative idea, does not mean it is a great idea.

# **Identity Builders**

Wear something all week to help your group build group identity. Necklaces, headbands, t-shirts, hats or name badges will help build group unity and help identify your group in the crowd.

# Create a Standard

If the adults from your group are going to reserve seats early each night, you will need a way for your students to find your seats when they enter. Create a tall "standard" for your group that can be easily seen and it represents your group or your camp theme. Make sure it can lay down during the service so it will not block the view of the people behind you.

# Serve the Servants

Find creative ways to serve Falls Creek staff. Bring them soft drinks, encouraging notes, snacks, etc. Definitely encourage the cooks in your own cabin. Teach your students about exemplifying Christ by serving people.

# Trash Pick Up

Add outside trash pick up around your cabin to your KP or bathroom assignment lists. Being intentional about the area around your cabin while you are at camp will help keep the campground clean all summer long. Some groups use trash pick up as discipline, but it may be better to use

# Back at Home Ideas

The 2010 camp experience is focused on what will happen at home. The success of Falls Creek is determined by the lives of students when they leave camp. But, teenagers are learning how to walk with God, so they will need encouragement, ideas and accountability to help them continue to put into practice what they learned at Falls Creek. Before leaving for camp, think through specific ways you can prepare your students to go home after camp. These are a few ideas for your church to continue kingdom work at home.

# **Follow Up**

Recruit and equip some adults who are not going to camp to help with the follow up after camp. As soon as a student makes a decision, contact the adult doing follow up back home and ask them to pray and prepare to meet with that student once a week for four weeks after camp to help with questions and needs. Falls Creek provides a Pursuit CD with an easy four week mentor guide for every student who makes a decision to accept Christ during camp.

# **Students Sharing**

Plan ways for your students to share their faith when they get home. When students start getting excited about sharing their faith at camp, they need to know there is a plan to take the excitement home. What will your plan be for your community?

# **Sunday School**

Before camp, give the names of all the students attending camp from a specific grade/class to the teacher of that Sunday School class. Ask the teacher to call the students on Saturday night (after camp) to introduce themselves and talk with the student about Sunday morning Bible study the next day.

# **Baptism**

mal service, so every student that accepts Christ will know before camp when they are going to be baptized. If possible, do the baptism counseling while you are still at camp. The Pursuit CD includes a resource to help students understand the purpose of baptism. If a student cannot participate in the first baptism service, do not give up. Continue to work with each student until all of them have been baptized. If baptism was important to Jesus, it should be important to us. A baptism resource, complete with creative ideas for celebrating baptisms, can be found on the resources page at www.skopos.org.

Have a date in mind for a baptis-

# **Bible Study Plan**

When your students go home after camp, help them move beyond camp by connecting them to the Devotional to End all Devotionals, a nine month Bible study found at www.skopos.org. The Devotional to End all Devotionals is a study designed to equip students to study the Bible on their own. After students work through this 36 week study, they will be able to meet with God and pull truths from His Word on their own.



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### SECTION 1.3 REGISTRATION

# FIVE ELEMENTS OF PARTICIPATION

Every lead sponsor should read this section. As a part of online registration, you are asked to agree to these requirements. Falls Creek allows for a great deal of individual church flexibility, to allow each group their own unique camp experience. To participate in Falls Creek, you must be a BGCO church or agree to the Statement of Participation from the BGCO Board of Directors.

With hundreds of new churches over the past few years and many programming changes, it is important that every church understands the specific requirements to attend the greatest youth camp in the world, Falls Creek. Every church attending Falls Creek agrees to the following:

- 1. group participation in the Morning Tabernacle Experience.
- 2. group participation in the Evening Tabernacle Experience.
- 3. assure that their students and sponsors agree to the camp code of conduct (listed on page 21).
- 4. inform and enforce camp dress code rules with their students and sponsors (listed on page 21).
- 5. provide a Biblically focused meaningful morning quiet time, morning in-cabin Bible study, and evening devotion.

In-cabin Bible study and cabin wrap-up/evening cabin devotional materials are provided in this resource or online at www.skopos.org. Quiet time materials are provided in the Student Guide given to every student and sponsor at registration on Monday (online at www.skopos.org by May 1, 2010). Churches may use the provided materials to align with the theme of the day or they may use their own materials. But, each church must conduct some kind of quiet time, morning Bible study, and evening devotion with their students.

# STATEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN FALLS CREEK YOUTH CAMP NON-BGCO CHURCHES

Falls Creek Youth Encampment is the largest Christian youth camp in America. It was founded and is still operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma primarily for the churches of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). Over the camp's long history, many churches have come as guests of BGCO churches and have participated in the youth weeks.

The BGCO Board of Directors requires that all non-BGCO churches participating in a Falls Creek youth week must either be a Southern Baptist church from another state or an Evangelical church that agrees to the basic beliefs of Southern Baptists (as printed on page 20). If a non-BGCO church has a problem with any of the Basic Beliefs stated below, please feel free to contact our office to discuss the attendance requirements with Andy Harrison, the Interim Program Director, (405) 942-3000 ext. 4388. Since BGCO churches support Falls Creek year round by giving to the Cooperative Program, non-BGCO churches are asked to pay a slightly higher registration fee of \$45.00 per person to attend Falls Creek (BGCO churches pay \$30.00 per person).

If a non-SBC church would like to participate in the invitation counseling, we request that they only connect with students from their group. Of course, all students are encouraged to participate in the public invitation given during the Evening Tabernacle Experience Tuesday through Friday.



# BASIC BELIEFS OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, TAKEN FROM THE 2000 BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

# The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

## God

There is one and only one living and true God. ...The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

# **God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. ...God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

# God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. ...He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

# **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. ...He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. ...He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

# Man

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. ...By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. ... The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

# Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

# **God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. ...All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.

# The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel...and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. ...This church is an autonomous body. ...The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

# **Baptism & the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. ...It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members ... memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

# The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. ...It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.

# The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

# **Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. ...Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly...the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. ...The righteous... will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

# **Evangelism & Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations ... to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort.

## **Education**

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence ... there should be a proper balance between academic freedom

and academic responsibility. ...The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

# **Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions.

# Cooperation

Christ's people should ... organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. ... Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

# The Christian & the Social Order

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. ... The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice.

## Peace & War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

# **Religious Liberty**

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. ... A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

# **Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. ...Marriage is the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. ...The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. ...Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FALLS CREEK YOUTH WEEKS

The code of conduct for Falls Creek is intended to assist the many diverse churches and students at camp to have a safe and enjoyable camp experience, while growing in their faith. Falls Creek is designed to help students and adults know and follow God, so the code of conduct prioritizes issues related to a student's faith development in Jesus. Falls Creek youth weeks are planned for youth (those who have completed 6th through 12th grade).

After 10:15 p.m., all students should be inside their cabin and should not be outside their cabin without a sponsor until after 6:30 a.m. Groups are allowed to meet around the perimeter of their cabin during late night devotional times, but a sponsor should be with the group at all times and extra care should be taken so other groups are not disturbed. Groups/individuals need to be inside their cabin by 11:45 p.m. If a particular group needs to meet outside their cabin after 11:45 p.m. for spiritual counsel, a sponsor must be present and the group must move inside the cabin as soon as possible.

No bands or instrumental groups are allowed to perform outside their cabin walls, except for groups that are an official part of the weekly programming for the whole camp. Headset listening devices and sound systems may be used only inside cabins. Excessive volume from a cabin is not permitted since it can disturb other cabins. No product sales are allowed at Falls Creek unless they have secured a contract through the Falls Creek Office. Students are required to attend both the Morning Tabernacle Experience and the Evening Tabernacle Experience each day.

Sponsors from each church are responsible for enforcing the code of conduct and camp dress code for their students and adults and for handling discipline issues. At all experiences, church groups must sit together. If the group is too large to find a single location for everyone, the group should divide into smaller groups with adult sponsors in each group. Students will not be permitted to leave the grounds unless accompanied by a sponsor.

It is strongly suggested that churches limit or prohibit their students' use and possession of cell phones and two-way radios. These items can quickly become a distraction to the goals of the week of camp.

Use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco of any type is not permitted on the grounds during any week of camp. The possession of offensive weapons of any sort is prohibited at Falls Creek. Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center reserves the right to perform a random drug and weapon search at any time and confiscate items that distract from the camp goals or that violate the code of conduct of the camp.

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Falls Creek is a Christian environment that promotes personal encouragement and spiritual development of every camper. Falls Creek does not condone or encourage any activity on grounds that humiliates any camper, including initiation, hazing, and pranks.

# DRESS CODE

The intent of the Falls Creek dress code is to provide an equitable dress code for all campers that will encourage modesty above legalism. Parents and church leaders are uraed to see that only clothing which meets the policies and regulations of the conference center is brought to Falls Creek. Please do not bring to Falls Creek clothing you sense would be questionable for a Christian camp setting.

Since Falls Creek is a Christian camp with a distinctly Christian atmosphere, the New Testament principle of modesty should always be the standard for dress at Falls Creek. It is the responsibility of the sponsors from each church to model the standard of modesty and enforce the camp dress code. While on Falls Creek grounds campers may not wear apparel that exposes the midriff, is extremely tight fitting, or has writing on the back of pants or shorts. Apparel may not display or promote tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, or inappropriate language or pictures. All shorts and dresses should be modest length. At Falls Creek, modest shorts are generally defined as shorts that have at least a five inch inseam or longer and dresses and skirts should be four inches from the top of the knee or longer. Slits in dresses and skirts should also be modest in length. Shirts/tops must have at least three inches across the shoulder. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times outside cabins, except while swimming.

Modest swimming suits are appropriate while swimming. A dark t-shirt must be worn over two-piece swimming suits. Males should not wear tight fitting swimming suits. While going to and from the swimming greas, all campers must wear shoes; males must wear a t-shirt and females must wear a long covering over their swimming suits.

# ADULT SPONSORS

# **Lead Sponsor**

Each church is required to appoint a lead sponsor. This could be the pastor, youth minister, or a lay person that will serve as the church contact person during the week. Churches must also provide a minimum of one sponsor for every ten youth with at least one male and one female sponsor. Some churches also select junior sponsors to attend with their group; usually these are young college students.

# **Sponsor Expectations**

Adult sponsors attending Falls Creek Youth Camp should adhere to the expectations listed below:

- Set the moral and spiritual example for the group.
- Model and enforce the camp code of conduct and dress code.
- Be responsible for the attendance of their students at BOTH experiences each day.
- Use every moment during the week to equip and encourage their students to follow Christ in their daily lives.
- Spend one-on-one time with the students in their cabin to hear their salvation story and/or to share Christ with them.
- Attend one of the Adult Leadership Investment times Tuesday or Wednesday night during the Evening Tabernacle Experience if involved in the youth ministry beyond camp.
- Have at least one sponsor/staff member from their church attend the 9:15 a.m. ten-minute daily update Tuesday-Friday in Massey Chapel (north side of the tabernacle).

# **Sponsor Selection**

Sponsors set the tone for the week. If a sponsor has a great attitude, the students will have a great week at camp. If the sponsors are godly role models and they use their influence wisely for the kingdom, there will be more spiritual impact during the week. Please only recruit and take adult sponsors who will encourage your students toward the goals of camp.

Falls Creek Youth Camp also recommends that each church performs a background check on all sponsors attending with their group.

A resource available to churches is Volunteer Screening through Trak-1 Technology found at www.trak-1.com. Trak-1 Technology is an online national data company that provides a discounted rate on individual background checks for any BGCO church. Churches must set up an account with Trak-1 before using any of their online services. Oklahoma churches can also contact the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) to screen people through their criminal records check at www.ok.gov/osbi. Both OSBI and Trak-1 charge a nominal fee for their criminal records check.

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

# **Online System**

Registration for 2010 is online at www.skopos.org. When you log onto the web site, you can input your student and sponsor info, determine your registration costs, select the upperclassmen assisting in the invitation from your group (if any), and print all your forms. If you have changes to your registration after you have entered the names and information, you can log back onto the registration site and update your information as often as you need until the Monday of your camp week. If you have any questions about registration, you can call our office at (405) 942-3000 ext. 4388.

# **Onsite Registration**

On Monday of your camp week from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on the north end of the tabernacle, you can make a few last minute changes with the Falls Creek staff before your payment is finalized and your final forms/wristbands are printed. At registration each church can sign up for recreation, photo times, cabin devotions or hosting staff meals. Student books, individual sponsor and student wristbands, and parking permits for every vehicle with your group will be issued at the onsite registration.

## **Release Forms**

You will need to bring to registration a 2010 release form for every person staying overnight with your church, signed and alphabetized. Wristbands will not be printed without a 2010 Falls Creek release form. It is also essential that every church has an extra copy of their signed release forms to keep with them while at Falls Creek. Both of the accetpable release forms are included in this book on pages 24-25 or they can be downloaded at www.skopos.org.

## **Wristbands**

Each wristband is personalized for every registrant; it is very important that each student and sponsor receives the wristband that they are assigned at registration on Monday. If a student or sponsor loses their wristband, they may purchase a replacement in the Falls Creek Office or at the Riverfront Recreation Field for \$1.00. If the wristband breaks, a free replacement can be given to them if they return the broken wristband to the Falls Creek Office or the Rec Hut at the Riverfront Recreation Field.

Students and sponsors are required to wear their wristband all week. Every camper full-time, part-time, or day guests must have a wristband on at all times. No one will be allowed to remain on grounds without a wristband. A wristband will be required to re-enter the gate, participate in recreation, ride a shuttle bus, purchase concessions, purchase from the gift shop and enter the tabernacle.

# **Full-time and Part-time Registrants**

Falls Creek is for students who have completed the 6th grade through the 12th grade. All registrants who have not completed the 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent. The Falls Creek Program Director recommends that students who have completed the 6th grade, but have not been a part of the youth group for the past year, should not attend the Falls Creek Youth Camp.

Full-time registrants are those attending Monday through Friday or Saturday. Part-time registrants are those attending four days or less. Part-time registrants coming later than Monday can register at the Falls Creek Office, if their lead sponsor did not register them and receive their wristband at registration on Monday.

The best system for registering part-time campers is for the lead sponsor to register part-time campers on Monday. To register your part-time campers on Monday you must know the day of their arrival and have their release form. This will allow you to pay the entire registration fee for your group on Monday and receive every wristband needed for the week. When part-time registrants arrive at the gate later in the week, the gate staff will have their name on a list and they can give them directions to your cabin. If the part-time registrant has NOT completed their release form, they will be directed to the Falls Creek Office after paying/entering the gate where they will have to complete all their forms before they can proceed to your cabin.

One day guests (not overnight) arriving from your church during your week of camp should pay at the gate. No release form is required for day only guests. Every guest staying overnight must have a release form on file with the Falls Creek Office. Only registrants (those who have completed a release form) can participate in any recreation or ride on the shuttle buses. Please make sure any of your drive in guests, like parents, church members, staff, etc. know that everyone entering the grounds must pay a day registration fee and the driver must show ID (see below for the day registration fees).

# **Registration Fees**

The lead sponsor should be prepared to pay the full registration amount for all part-time and full-time students, sponsors, children, cooks and early arrivals with exact change or a check when registering on Monday in the north end of the tabernacle. Make checks payable to the BGCO. The online registration system will calculate the exact amount needed for registration when you enter all of the students and sponsors attending. If you do not make it to registration by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, your group can register late after the Evening Tabernacle Experience in the north end of the tabernacle.

## **Day Guests**

If a guest is visiting camp for the day and will not be staying overnight, payment must be made at the gate and a visitor wristband will be issued to the guest. All guests must leave grounds by midnight on the day they arrive. All drive in guests must show a valid driver's license.

# **Early Arrivals**

Students are not allowed on Falls Creek grounds on Sunday. Adult sponsors may stay over Sunday night if they are setting up the cabin, but the cabin owner should be aware that the group is using the cabin on Sunday. If adult sponsors from your church will be arriving early, please mark the number of adults in the "Early Arrivals" section of your online registration. Adult sponsors arriving on Sunday will pick up their keys at the Main Gate from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There is an additional \$6.00 per day, per person fee (\$9.00 for non-BGCO churches) for sponsors staying overnight Sunday night. During the summer, students may not stay overnight on Saturday or Sunday night at Falls Creek.

# **Registration Fees:**

- BGCO Churches Full-Time: \$30.00 per person for the week (students, sponsors or cooks)
- BGCO Churches Part-Time: \$6.00 per day per person
- Non-BGCO Churches Full-Time: \$45.00 per person for the week (students, sponsors, or cooks)
- Non-BGCO Churches Part-Time: \$9.00 per day per person
- Children six and under attending with their parents: \$1.00 per day per child (children over 6 years will be charged the student rate)
- Evening Only (after 5:00 p.m.): \$2.00 per person
- Sponsor Early Arrivals: additional \$6.00 per day per person (\$9.00 for non-BGCO churches) for sponsors staying overnight on Sunday to drop off supplies and set up their cabin

# SECTION 1.4 REPRODUCIBLE FORMS

# FALLS CREEK 2010 ADULT RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS FORM

Host Church:	
Name:	Age:
Address: Phone: Phone:	7in·
In Emergency Notify: Relationship:	Σιμ
Home Phone: Cell or Work Phone:	
E-mail: College Attending This Fall (if applicable):	
Secondary Emergency Contact: rnone:	
Do you have any known allergies or are you unable to take any medication?Yes No If yes, what? Yes No      Do you presently take any medications regularly? Yes No	
ir yes, what medications?	
For what reason?  3. List any other medical condition(s) that would be helpful to know:	
A Data of last totanus immunization:	
Date of last tetanus immunization:     The above named adult has current medical insurance coverage through:     Insurance Company:	
Name on Insurance Policy:	
Insurance Company Phone Number: Policy Number: Policy Number:	
City:	Zip:
Insurance Company:  Name on Insurance Policy: Insurance Company Phone Number: Mailing Address for Medical Claims (see back of insurance card): City:  State:  Does your insurance company require notification prior to emergency health care at a hospital?  If yes, Phone Number:	No
It is your responsibility to obtain insurance permission for treatment.	
I, will be attending Falls Creek during the summer session, 2010. Falls managed and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma ("BGCO"). In the event that I should need emergency medical, the BGCO or any of their agents or employees is hereby authorized to consent to the provision of such emergency medical, dental, surgical care or hospitalization, to me as is recommended or suggested by a physician, nurse, surgeon or other	edical care, including without limitation,
If such emergency care is provided, I understand that my health insurance information will be given to the health care profession by my insurance shall be my responsibility. I understand that the Host Church or the BGCO will not be obligated to pay either the medical expenses incurred.	nal and that any expenses not covered e health care professional or me for any
There are instances when third party contractors are used to operate and supervise various events and activities. In those instant agree that neither the Host Church nor the BGCO is responsible for the action of these third party contractors. I further agree the liable for the actions or activities of participants or sponsors participating in events or activities operated by third party contractors.	hat neither the Host Church nor the BGCO is
I understand that the risk of injury from any recreational activity is significant, including, but not limited to, the potential for per particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist. I knowingly and funknown, even if arising from negligence, and assume full responsibility for my participation in or observation of such recreation	freely assume all risks, both known and
Furthermore, in consideration of being allowed to attend Falls Creek camp, I hereby waive, and I hereby agree to indemnify and their agents or employees, against any and all causes of action, rights, claims or suits which I may have against the Host Church as a result of injury to me, including, but not limited to: (1) injuries arising from participation in or observation of recreational carising from the decision of the leadership of the Host Church, the BGCO, or any of their agents or employees to consent to the p	, the BGCO, or their agents or employees activities at Falls Creek, and (2) injuries
I understand that my image may be included in a video or in photographs that may be made during camp. I understand that a available for sale during and after camp. I consent that my image may appear on videos, promotional resources, camp endorse	
I give authority and permission to the Host Church, the BGCO, and any of their staff or agents to inspect my belonging	gs while at Falls Creek.
Signature: Date:	
Must be 18 years old or older to sign this form. Every adult attending Falls Creek must complete this Release Form a during registration.	ınd turn it in on the first day of camp

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# FALLS CREEK 2010 STUDENT RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS FORM Age: \_\_\_\_ Grade This Fall: Camper Name: Phone: \_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ In Emergency Notify: Relationship: Cell or Work Phone: Home Phone: Phone: Secondary Emergency Contact: 1. Does camper have any known allergies or is camper unable to take any medication? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Does camper presently take any medications regularly? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, what medications? \_\_\_\_\_ For what reason? 3. List any other medical condition(s) that would be helpful to know: 4. Date of last tetanus immunization: 5. The above named child has current medical insurance coverage through: Insurance Company: Name on Insurance Policy: \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Company Phone Number: \_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address for Medical Claims (see back of insurance card): \_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_ Will a parent of the Camper attend Falls Creek during the same period of time as the Camper? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No If yes, name of parent: \_\_\_\_ I understand that it is the responsibility of my child's Host Church to obtain insurance permission for treatment or to limit my child's recreational activities because of a stated medical condition. will be attending Falls Creek during the summer session, 2010. Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center is managed and operated by the Baptist My child, General Convention of Oklahoma ("BGCO"). In the event that my child should need emergency medical care or attention, the Host Church leadership, the BGCO or any of their agents or employees is hereby authorized to consent to the provision of such emergency medical care, including without limitation, medical, dental, surgical care or hospitalization, to my child as is recommended or suggested by a physician, nurse, surgeon or other health care professional. If such emergency care is provided to my child, I understand that my child's health insurance information will be given to the health care professional and that any expenses not covered by my child's insurance shall be my responsibility. I understand that the Host Church or the BGCO will not be obligated to pay either the health care professional or me for any medical expenses incurred on behalf of my child. There are instances when third party contractors are used to operate and supervise various events and activities. In those instances where third party contractors are used, I agree that neither the Host Church no. the BGCO is responsible for the action of these third party contractors. I further agree that neither the Host Church nor the BGCO is liable for the actions or activities of participants or sponsors participating in events or activities operated by third party contractors. I understand that the risk of injury from any recreational activity is significant, including, but not limited to, the potential for permanent paralysis and death. While particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist. I knowingly and freely assume all risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from negligence, and assume full responsibility for my child's participation in or observation of such recreational activity. Furthermore, in consideration of my child being allowed to attend Falls Creek camp, I, on behalf of myself and my child, hereby waive, and I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Host Church, the BGCO, their agents or employees, against any and all causes of action, rights, claims or suits which I or my child may have against the Host Church, the BGCO, or their agents or employees as a result of injury to my child, including, but not limited to: (1) injuries arising from my child's participation in or observation of recreational activities at Falls Creek, and (2) injuries arising from the decision of the leadership of the Host Church, the BGCO, or any of their agents or employees to consent to the provision of emergency medical care to my child. I understand that my child's image may be included in a video or in photographs that may be made during camp. I understand that a promotional or highlight video may be available for sale during and after camp. I consent that my child's image may appear on videos, promotional resources, camp endorsed web sites, etc. I give authority and permission to the Host Church, the BGCO, and any of their staff or agents to inspect my child's belongings while at Falls Creek. I understand that Falls Creek is a place where many students seek counsel and advice from adult leaders, staff, counselors and others. I hereby consent to my child receiving spiritual and emotional counsel during I have received and read the Parent Information about Falls Creek including the list of the recreational options and the daily schedule, and I have received satisfactory answers to all my questions about such Relationship to child: All students attending Falls Creek must have a parent or guardian complete and sign this release form. This form must be turned in to the Falls Creek staff during registration on the first day of camp. Optional OBU Information Form - The following portion of this document is to be removed from the above by Falls Creek and used by OBU to verify the student's eligibility for the camp scholarship of \$1,000 (once they are in grades 9-12). It will also be used for prize drawings at the end of the week. It is not a required part of this form. Female Date of Birth (mm/dd/vv) City State Zipcode

# PARENT INFORMATION ABOUT FALLS CREEK 2010

# What is Falls Creek?

Falls Creek is the largest Christian camp in the world. Nestled in the Arbuckle Mountains in southern Oklahoma, Falls Creek has been in operation since 1917. It is a distinctively Christian camp, upholding high moral standards and challenging students to follow Christ every day.

Falls Creek is unique in that it is a place where over 100 churches come each week to hold their own camp week. Each church secures its own cabin, provides its own sponsors and meals, enforces the dress code and camp code of conduct and teaches its in-cabin devotions. This year's camp theme is "Sent." The entire week is designed to teach students how to share their faith in their daily life.

If you would like to look in or listen to some of the camp services, you may go to www.skopos. org and click on the Falls Creek page for audio of the services and a live web cam. You may also see copies of the provided camp Bible studies at www.skopos.org.

# **How to Pray this Week**

Your students need to know that you and your church are praying for them as they spend the week at camp. We encourage you to pray each day specifically for your child and at least one other student on the trip. You may want to meet once during the week as parents to pray specifically for the group. Please pray for the safety of the camp, camp leadership, sponsors, and for the specific daily events as they happen.

# Recreation

Volleyball, softball, basketball, horseshoes, high and low ropes course, challenge elements, skateboarding, hiking, running, kayaks, lake park, water slides, and swimming are scheduled for the week of camp. In addition to these camp wide recreation options, each church designs its own recreation plan for its cabin. If you would like more information about Falls Creek recreation, you can go to www.skopos. org or e-mail youth@bgco.org.

## Insurance & First Aid

Accident and illness insurance is provided for all those attending Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center. Most injuries or illnesses that occur during the week of camp are covered by insurance. Accident and illness insurance benefits are limited and payable up to a certain amount. For more information on Falls Creek insurance benefits, go to the Falls Creek page of www.skopos.org.

The insurance coverage includes accidents and illnesses that occur during regularly scheduled activities on the grounds of Falls Creek. The insurance coverage also includes the time spent traveling directly between the conference center grounds and the camper's residence. Day trips or other activities off the conference center grounds are not covered.

To apply for accident and illness insurance benefits, a claim report must be completed and submitted to the insurance provider. The claim report form may be obtained at the First Aid Station at Falls Creek. For claims submitted to the accident and illness insurance company, the injured/ill person is responsible for making payment to the medical provider (hospital, ER, doctor, etc.). If coverage applies, the insurance company will issue reimbursement directly to the injured person, parent, or guardian, as the case may be, for approved claims.

A RELEASE FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CAMPER AND SIGNED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. This information is helpful to the camp physician in ministering to an injured or ill person.

Most minor injuries or illnesses are taken care of in the church cabin. However, if medical attention should be required, the sponsor (or an adult appointed by the sponsor) should come with the patient to the First Aid Station. If the illness or accident should be of a serious nature, patients may be sent to a hospital or doctor in a nearby town.

# Other Camp Information

## **Falls Creek Code of Conduct**

The code of conduct for Falls Creek is intended to assist the many diverse churches and students at camp to have a safe and enjoyable camp experience, while growing in their faith. Falls Creek is designed to help students and adults know and follow God, so the code of conduct prioritizes issues related to a student's faith development in Jesus. Falls Creek youth weeks are planned for youth (those who have completed 6th through 12th grade).

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Since Falls Creek is a Christian camp with a distinctly Christian atmosphere, the New Testament principle of modesty should always be the standard for dress at Falls Creek. It is the responsibility of the sponsors from each church to model the standard of modesty and enforce the camp dress code.

While on Falls Creek grounds campers may not wear apparel that exposes the midriff, is extremely tight fitting, or has writing on the back of pants or shorts. Apparel may not display or

promote tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, or inappropriate language or pictures. All shorts and dresses should be modest length. At Falls Creek, modest shorts are generally defined as shorts that have at least a five inchinseam or longer and dresses and skirts should be four inches from the top of the knee or longer. Slits in dresses and skirts should also be modest in length. Shirts/tops must have at least three inches across the shoulder. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times outside cabins, except while swimming.

Modest swimming suits are appropriate while swimming. A dark t-shirt must be worn over two-piece swimming suits. Males should not wear tight fitting swimming suits. While going to and from the swimming areas, all campers must wear shoes; males must wear a t-shirt and females must wear a long covering over their swimming suits.

# **Spending Money**

Extra spending money is suggested for each student who attends Falls Creek. Pop, ice cream and other refreshments will be sold between sessions and in the evening throughout the week.  $5'' \times 7''$  group pictures will also be offered to each camper for \$5.00 or  $8 \times 10$  photos can be purchased for \$8.00. T-shirts, books, and many gift items are available at the Falls Creek Gift Shop. All of these are optional expenses.

## **Mail & Phone Calls**

Incoming mail is sorted by the cabin name and can be picked up by a sponsor each day at the Falls Creek Post Office.

Mail sent to campers should be addressed:
Camper Name
Church Name/Cabin Name
Falls Creek Baptist Conference
Center
6714 HWY 77D
Davis, OK 73030-8002

Please do not send large packages since the Falls Creek Office cannot sign for them. All packages containing medications should be addressed to the First Aid Station and a nurse will deliver the medication to the student.

Falls Creek Office Phone Numbers (580) 369-2101 or (405) 942-3000 ext. 3221 Please use these numbers for emergency only.

# **Visiting Falls Creek**

If you drive in for a day at Falls Creek, there will be a \$6.00 charge per person before 5:00 p.m. and \$2.00 charge per person after 5:00 p.m. Each driver will also be required to present a valid driver's license for entry into camp.

Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center Owned & Operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma 3800 North May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 Falls Creek Program web site, www.skopos.org

ns	Monday 1:30-4:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 10:15 p.m. 11:45 p.m.	
	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Registration
	5:45 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	Tabernacle Doors Open
	7:45 p.m.	Evening Tabernacle Experience
	10:15 p.m.	Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional
	11:45 p.m.	Inside Cabins
LE	Tuesday – Fr	iday
	8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
Y	8:45 a.m. 9:10 a.m.	Doors Open for HS Morning Tabernacle Experience
	9:30 a.m.	HS Morning Tabernacle Experience (dismiss at 10:40 a.m.)
U	9:30 a.m.	MS Quiet Time (cabin)
	10:05 a.m.	
<b>1</b>	10:50 a.m.	HS Quiet Time (cabin)
and the second	11:30 a.m.	In-Cabin Bible Study
	12:30 p.m.	Lunch
	1:30 p.m.	Recreation & Free Time
	5:45 p.m.	Dinner
	7:15 p.m.	
	7:45 p.m.	Evening Tabernacle Experience (dismiss at 9:00 p.m.)
	10:15 p.m.	Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional
	11·45 n m	Inside Cahins

# VOLLEYBALL / SOFTBALL REGISTRATION FORM

Church:	Cabin:
Lead Sponsor:	
the volleyball tournaments and softball. Please make copies of this form	of this form with the names of students/sponsors who will be participating in if you need additional space. All entries should be turned in at registration on be in residence at Falls Creek three of the four playing days. Players must be on
The Lead Sponsor from each church should make a copy of this form, becamp week.	fore it is turned in at Monday registration, to post inside the cabin during their
Blue, Pink, & Green Divisions: Youth Team Volleybo	all
Blue Division Team One: (all youth guys, no sponsors)	Pink Division Team One: (all youth girls, no sponsors)
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
Blue Division Team Two: (only if you have at least 60 students with your group)	Pink Division Team Two: (only if you have at least 60 students with your group)
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
If you have over 110 students, make an additional copy of this form for a third to the state of the students, my church would like to enter (enter#) more teams in the Blue Division.	

Green Division Team One: A team may consist of 4-9 middle school players who just completed the 6th	Red Division Four-on-Four Open Volleyball Team One: Players can be male, female, student, or sponsor from the same church.
through 8th grade, no sponsors.	1
1	2
2	
3	3
4	4     5
5	<u></u>
	Red Division Four-on-Four Open Volleyball Team Two:
6	1
7	2
8	3
9	4
o. D	5
Green Division Team Two: (only if you have at least 60 students with your group)	If bracket space allows, my church would like to enter (enter#) more teams in the Red Division.
1,	
2	<b>Softball:</b> Churches that enter a softball team in recreation will play two days of their
3	camp week. Please select which days your team will play. Mark only one.
4	Tuesday/Thursday Wednesday/Friday
5	If bracket space allows, my church would like to enter (enter#) more teams in the Softball bracket.
6	more teams in the Softball bracket.
7	
8	
9	
If you have over 110 students, make an additional copy of this form for a third team. If bracket space allows, my church would like to enter (enter#) more teams in the Green Division.	
Orange Division Sponsor Volleyball: A team may consist of 4-9 sponsors any mixture of male or female with up to two students. A sponsor is defined as a person who has graduated from high school by one year or more.	
1	
2	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9.	

If bracket space allows, my church would like to enter \_\_\_\_\_ (enter#) more teams in the Orange Division.

# FALLS CREEK STUDENT PROFILE

Help us get to know you better by filling out this Student Profile. When you are finished, give this profile to the sponsors from your church attending Falls Creek, so they can know how to pray for you at camp.

lame:		Grade This Fall:	Age:
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone Number:	Cell Phone Number:		
-mail Address:			
Vhat activities are you involved in at school?			
ell us briefly about your family:			
Vhat is your favorite snack?			
Vhat is your favorite movie?			
Vhat is your favorite sport?			
Does your family usually attend church?YesNo f yes, where?			
lave you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?	YesNo Unsure		
f you are a Christian, when did you accept Christ?			
Vere you baptized after you accepted Christ? Yes No f yes, where?			
Which of these have you done in the past week: (Check each one that Mead the Bible M			
lave you ever attended Falls Creek? Yes No			
Vhy do you want to go to Falls Creek?			
When the adults from our church pray for you, what would you like th	nem to pray for during the week you	are at Falls Creek?	

# FALLS CREEK 2010 IN-CABIN SPIRITUAL DECISION CARD Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: Church Home: \_\_\_\_\_ **Decision:** \_\_\_\_ I have received Christ as my Savior and Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ I want to be baptized. \_\_\_\_\_I am renewing my commitment to Christ by turning away from some past bad decisions and sin. \_\_\_\_\_ I sense that God is calling me to Christian ministry. I want someone to pray for me about\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Talked with \_\_\_\_\_\_ about my spiritual decision.

	Name:	
		State: Zip:
Home Phone:	Cell Phon	e:
E-mail:		
Church Home:		
I sense that God is call	as my Savior and Lord. nmitment to Christ by turning away from some past ling me to Christian ministry. ny for me about	

# SECTION 2.1 AROUND GROUNDS

## **Banner Contest**

Each week, two banners that depict this year's camp theme "Sent" will be selected and announced before the Tuesday Evening Tabernacle Experience. The size of the banner should be approximately 4' x 8' and designed and produced by the youth group. Sign up for the banner contest will be at the OBU table during registration on Monday. All contestants must hang their banner outside the front of their cabin by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday in order to be viewed for judging. The winning banners will stay displayed in front of the cabins.

# **Baptism at Falls Creek**

The BGCO Board of Directors has approved baptism at Falls Creek when the local church has authorized the baptism. Prior notification must be given to the Falls Creek Office so a Falls Creek staff member can be present (for safety reasons) and authorization from the local church can be documented.

## **Bus Schedule**

Buses will operate continuously from 12:50-5:45 p.m. Tuesday through Friday picking up and dropping off every 5-7 minutes in front of cabin 601, cabin 500, Nunny Bridge, Main Gate, Price's Falls, Riverfront Recreation Field, and the Diamond course. You can only ride the bus with a registered camper wristband. The buses are free, fun and a lot better than walking.

# Cook-Off

For the summer of 2010, the competition continues for the cooks in the Falls Creek Cook-Off. Adult sponsors will be allowed to enter items in any or all of the five categories: beef/pork dish, chicken/fish dish, side dish, dessert dish and late night snack. If you wish to participate in the cook-off, you must enter an item that has or will be served in your cabin during your week of camp to all the students and that is "homemade." Also, dishes must be delivered in a disposable container to the cafeteria since no dishware will be returned.

Dishes may be delivered to the cafeteria no earlier than 4:30 p.m. and no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday. Either the cook who prepared the dish or a representative can fill out an entry card at the cafeteria when they drop off their entry. Dishes will be judged beginning at 5:00 Thursday evening. Winning dishes will be announced Friday night before the Evening Tabernacle Experience. The cooks do not have to be present during the judging. Please provide a written copy of the recipe so the great meal idea can be shared with other groups in the future. Past recipes can be found online at www. skopos.org.

# **Crisis Intervention Counseling - LPC**

During the week, a crisis intervention counselor will be on grounds to assist church leaders and individual students with immediate counseling needs. All appointments must be made by a sponsor at the First Aid Station. There is no charge for the intervention counseling services and their referral. For more information, stop by the First Aid Station.

## **Contact Information**

Mail addressed to campers should use the following form:

Name of Camper
Church Name/Cabin Name
Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center
6714 HWY 77D

Davis, OK 73030-8002

Mail is sorted by the cabin name. One person should be designated to pick up the church mail every day at the Falls Creek Post Office. Any medication should be sent to the First Aid Station and a note will be sent to the student to pick up their medication. Please do not send packages to Falls Creek, since the office cannot sign for packages sent to individuals or churches.

## **Falls Creek Phone Numbers**

Office: (580) 369-2101 or (405) 942-3000 ext. 3221

# Cabin Check-In & Maintenance

Advance Appliance Renair (AR) Pan American Electric (E)

Wynnewood, OK

(405) 207-4739 or (405) 238-4073 Davis, OK

All cabins on grounds at Falls Creek are owned and maintained by individual churches or associations. Each cabin owner and renting church agrees upon repair and check-in and check-out requirements. Cabin owners should be notified if you are arriving early for set up. Please reference your contract for check-in and check-out procedures.

If there is a maintenance need in a cabin during the week, the group leader can contact the Falls Creek Office. Each cabin owner and renter will be responsible for making their own arrangements for any service and repair needs. The following listing is provided for your convenience, but it should not be considered an exhaustive listing or an endorsement by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Almost every cabin owner requires they be contacted before any repairs are done on their cabin.

Sooner Home Furnishings (AR)

AC - Air Conditioning

AR - Appliance Repair

BG - Butane Gas

E - Electrical

P - Plumbing

R - Refrigeration

Ardmore, OK	Mark or Terry Deen	Pauls Valley, OK
(580) 226-5508	Davis, OK	(405) 238-3334
	(580) 369-3336	
Allied Services (AC/R/P)	• •	Thomas Plumbing Service (P)
Ardmore, OK	Pitmon Oil & Gas (BG)	Eddie Thomas
(580) 223-5434	Davis, OK	Davis, OK
	(580) 369-3135	(580) 247-0951
Current Electric (E)	• •	
Thomas Andrews	Powell Electric & Plumbing (E/	P) Thomas Heat & Air (AC/R)
Stratford, OK	John Powell	John Thomas
(580) 759-5467 or (580) 320-7488	Davis, OK	Roff, OK
	(580) 369-2080	(580) 456-7100 or
Giltner & Haigood Heat & Air (AC/R)		(866) 877-7100 (toll free)
Austin Giltner or Robby Haigand	Royal Flush Plumbers (P)	NEC.

**Rob Doss** 

(580) 369-8265

# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

# **Emergency Siren**

If you hear the emergency siren go off during the week of camp, it will not be a drill. At the sound of one continuous siren, please move immediately into the nearest cabin or building and get in the innermost room, bottom floor until the "all-clear" signal is sounded. The "all-clear" signal will be when the siren repeatedly goes on, then off.

# **Camp Evacuation Process**

All participants of Falls Creek need to be conscious of any type of open flame while on the Falls Creek grounds. In the event of a fire, the need to evacuate Falls Creek or parts of Falls Creek may become necessary. Falls Creek staffers will assist campers in locating the appropriate evacuation routes and guide them to designated areas. The primary evacuation routes will be through the North Gate and Main Gate, using the low road through Price's Falls and walking north to the softball fields. Depending on the circumstances, this is subject to change and Falls Creek staff will provide guidance for campers during the process.

# **Reporting Emergencies**

If you have an emergency to report or need help, contact security at the Falls Creek Office: (580) 369-2101 or (405) 942-3000 ext. 3221.

## First Aid

For the health and safety of your campers. the First Aid Station has suggested that each church bring with them a First Aid Kit for minor accidents or illnesses. Sponsors are encouraged to bring their campers to the First Aid Station for occurrences that cannot be properly cared for in the cabin.

Suggested First Aid Kit Items: Assorted bandages Antiseptic Aloe Verg or Benzocaine Adhesive tape Triple antibiotic ointment Sterile gauze squares, assorted sizes Benadryl or Cortaid cream Roller gauze - Kling Scissors

Stool softener/laxative Tweezers Mild pain reliever - Tylenol or Advil Fever thermometer Antacid – Mylanta or Maalox Insect repellent Kaopectate Skin cream or lotion Benadryl capsules, chewable tablets and/ or liquid

When campers need medical attention at the First Aid Station, a church sponsor must accompany them. If illnesses or accidents are of a serious nature, patients may be sent to a hospital in a nearby town, but they should first report to the First Aid Station for a referral. Overnight non-emergency injuries. illnesses, or medical needs should be taken by the church sponsors to the hospital in Ardmore (no referral needed overnight).

Please observe office hours (see page 6) as much as possible. However, someone will be on 24-hour call for an emergency.

A release form must be completed on each student by a parent or quardian. All sponsors and cooks must also complete and turn in a completed release form. All release forms will be filed in the First Aid Station immediately after registration on Monday.

Please make sure that you make a second copy of your release forms to keep with you during the week of camp in case you have to go to the hospital or have problems traveling home on Saturday.

Your original release forms will not be returned to you after you turn them in on Monday.

# **Gate System**

There are two gates into Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center. Both entry streets from these gates will be one way streets on Monday. Churches staying in the 100-400 sections of cabins will enter through the Main Gate. Also, if you are in cabin 700, 701, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, or 717 vou should also enter the Main Gate. Churches staying in all other cabins will enter on Monday and exit on Saturday through the North Gate located off the high road.

During the week, the Main Gate will be accessible 24 hours a day; however, entry process will not begin until 8:00 a.m. on Monday and 6:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. All day auests who are leaving after the evening devotional should exit camp through the Main Gate by midnight to honor the inside cabin curfew at 11:45 p.m.

During registration on Monday of your camp week, you will be provided car tags for every vehicle on grounds with your church. The car tag will have a gate code listed for entering the Main Gate after hours. This code should only be used for vehicles with your church.

# **Grocery & Bulk Food Items**

There is no arocery store on arounds at Falls **Creek Conference Center. Grocery stores** located near camp in Davis, OK include:

Sooner Foods: 705 E Main St. Davis. OK 73030 (580) 369-2334

If a group would like to order food in bulk for camp, the group leader can contact any of the food services below and they will deliver on Monday of your camp week to Price's Falls.

# **Food Service Suppliers**

Ben E. Keith: (405) 201-1522 Sysco: (580) 221-1900 U.S. Foods: (580) 812-1442

Cable Meat Company: (800) 522-1602

# Insurance

Accident and illness insurance is provided for all those attending Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center. Most injuries or illnesses that occur during the week of camp are covered by insurance. Accident and illness insurance benefits are limited and payable up to a certain amount. For more information on Falls Creek insurance benefits, go to the Falls Creek page of www.skopos.org.

The insurance coverage includes accidents and illnesses that occur during regularly scheduled activities on the grounds of Falls Creek. The insurance coverage also includes the time spent traveling directly between the conference center grounds and the camper's

## Insurance cont...

residence. Trips to Turner Falls or other activities off the conference center grounds are not covered. For claims submitted to the accident and illness insurance company, the injured/ill person is responsible for making payment to the medical provider (hospital, ER, doctor, etc.). If coverage applies, the insurance company will issue reimbursement directly to the injured person, parent, or guardian, as the case may be, for approved claims.

To apply for accident and illness insurance benefits, a claim report must be completed and submitted to the insurance provider. The claim report form may be obtained at the First Aid Station at Falls Creek.

# Invitation in the Evening Tabernacle Experience

Every summer Falls Creek provides the opportunity for students to share their faith by training spiritually mature upperclassmen students to do the first step of the counseling process at the close of the Evening Tabernacle Experience. Each church should pray through and select students from their church that are 16-19 years old, committed to Christ and have shown leadership in the youth ministry. The lead sponsor will recommend those qualified in the online registration process. This is a great way to equip students who are ready to help their peers know Christ.

Three different teams of individuals will be needed for the decision process:

- (1) The first team is the **Decision Team.**This team will be 16-19 year old students who will do the peer spiritual counseling.
  Their main task will be to sit down with one of their peers, walk them through the simple counseling material, and pray with the person making the decision.
- (2) The second team is the **Advisor Team.** This team will be pastors and youth pastors who will walk among the Decision Team while the counseling is taking place to be available when a student needs assistance.

(3) The third team is the **Encourager Team.** This team will be adult lay and staff church leaders who will talk briefly with every student who made a decision, after they have prayed with the student from the Decision Team. The Encourager Team checks the decision card information and gives the student making the decision follow-up materials to help them in their new or renewed journey with Christ.

Everyone helping with the invitation, (Decision Team, Advisor Team, and Encourager Team) should view the Invitation Training video segment on the 2010 camp DVD and participate in a training session on Monday or Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in Massey Chapel. Exterior doors to the chapel will open at 6:45 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday for students and adult sponsors to enter for the Invitation Training.

All invitation team members must be an active member of a Southern Baptist church and be available each evening to meet briefly with students after the Evening Tabernacle Experience. Students who participate in the Decision Team must be recommended from their church leadership as a part of the online registration process.

# **Follow Up**

It is imperative that each church has a plan to follow up on the students who make decisions during their week at Falls Creek. Any student that accepts Christ during a week at camp should have a mentor assigned to them to help them work through the Pursuit CD follow-up material. Before leaving camp on Saturday, someone should speak individually with each student that accepted Christ about baptism and being a part of the church.

The most important aspect of camp is following up on the decisions that were made at camp. A 14 year-old student may understand enough to accept Christ or restore their commitment to Christ, but often they do not know how to follow Christ daily. It is the task of the local church staff and lay leadership to help the students after Falls Creek continue in their journey with God. Additional ideas about preparing for home can be found in the ideas section of this book on page 17.

If a student accepts Christ during a cabin time, they can pick up The Pursuit a followup CD from any of the schlobal sites or the Falls Creek Office. If a student in your cabin senses a call to ministry, they may also stop by any of the mission sites or the office to pick up a follow-up CD called The Discovery.

# **Adult Leadership Investment**

On Tuesday and Wednesday evening, during the Evening Tabernacle Experience, the BGCO Student Ministry staff will offer training and encouragement for church staff and adult volunteers that work with students. The training time will be from 7:45 p.m. until the start of the invitation (to allow leaders to help with the invitation). The evening will focus on: Building a Quality Youth Ministry.

Training is offered Tuesday and Wednesday nights so that half of your adult volunteers can stay in the service with your students while the other leaders participate in the leader training. The leader investment time will be for adult leaders that are involved in the student ministry year round, but other sponsors are welcome if they would like to attend.

# Mission Strategy

Schlobal is designed to help students understand their role in reaching their school as well as joining the global task of telling the nations about Christ. At these sites students can put their testimony online, explore numerous places of service, and learn how they can share their faith at school, pray for the nations, and experience hands on missions mobilization activities.

Save The Planet in the north end of the tabernacle will be open before and after the experiences. The Wynn Center for World Missions will be open in the afternoons and after the evening experiences. The Mobebile (Classic VW Van) will also be around camp in the afternoons encouraging students to think differently about their world. At all three Schlobal sites, you can find information about mission trips, GO Students and evangelism ideas. Students can put their testimony online at www.code2life.com and college students can put their testimony online at www.majorthina.com.

Also, keep your eyes peeled for our new missions village, the much anticipated addition of the installed granite globe in the prayer plaza, another exciting late night missions experience, and other missions challenges and special events on grounds.

#### **GO Students**

G.O. Students stands for Global Oklahoma Students. For the past five summers at Falls Creek, students have been challenged to apply to go overseas with other Oklahoma students through GO Students. GO Students will return again to the United Kingdom to work with IMB missionaries during 2010 and 2011. At all Schlobal locations, you can find information about GO Students in the United Kingdom for 2011 as well as opportunities in East Asia and Washington D.C. You can also visit www.skopos.org for more information.

GO Students is a partnership with the BGCO. iWitness Ministries, and the International Mission Board.

#### **Missionary Staff**

Falls Creek will host missionaries from the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board for the summer of 2010. Missionaries will be available at the Schlobal sites and they will lead individual cabin devotionals when they are requested. You can schedule a cabin devotional time with one of our missionaries or summer staff during registration on Monday or at one of the five pre-camp regional preparation meetinas.

#### **Morning In-Cabin Bible Study**

Falls Creek 2010 curriculum challenges students to rise to the truth that they have been sent in to this world to share their faith. The leader's material for the in-cabin Bible study is available in this book and online at www.skopos.org. The camp DVD has teaching videos for Tuesday through Friday mornings designed for the in-cabin Bible study time. The in-cabin Bible study resource will reinforce what is taught in the morning experiences. Any church can personalize or change the direction of the morning in-cabin Bible study to best meet the needs of their group.

With new improvements to the video teaching resource, Bible study in Massey Chapel will not be provided this summer. All churches will need to have Bible study in their cabins. This means each church needs to either prepare to teach live or bring a TV and DVD player or other audio visual set up.

#### **OBU**

Oklahoma Baptist University is pleased to provide a team of current OBU students at Falls Creek each week throughout the summer. You or your students can obtain information on OBU and potential scholarships as well as registering for givegways by visiting the OBU staff at the Riverfront Recreation Field anytime during the week and/or by completing the Optional OBU Information Form at the bottom of the Student Release Form. The OBU staff is also available to visit vour cabin and/or lead devotionals. You can register for an OBU staffer to lead one of your cabin devotionals at any of the regional preparation meetings or by contacting Odus Compton by e-mail odus.compton@okbu. edu. You can visit OBU's website online at www.okbu.edu.

#### "Late Night with OBU"

OBU is cooking up something special in the amphitheater after the Tuesday and Don't miss this exciting time!

#### One Hour of Solitude

For the summer of 2010, we will continue challenging students who want to go deeper in their walk with God to find one additional hour during the week to be alone with God. The One Hour of Solitude guide will be included in the student book given to each person on Monday and online at www.skopos.org.

#### **Parkina**

There are three large parking lots (one at the North Gate and two on the south end of the camp) and limited parking around the cabins. Please limit the vehicles parked around your cabin to keep the streets clear. If your group is bringing a bus for the week, please be prepared to park at the bus parking lots near the Riverfront Recreation Field or at the high road bus parking area. Vans should be moved to the parking lots on grounds. All vehicles on grounds overnight must have a parking tag on their rear view mirror. Parking tags will be distributed during registration on Monday. Handicapped parking for the tabernacle is available at the north lot of the tabernacle. Please use this handicapped lot only for the services, not overnight parking.



#### PICTURES

#### **Cabin Group Pictures**

In order to preserve historic records and to publicize the activities of Falls Creek, we have made arrangements to have group pictures made of every group attending Falls Creek. The photographer will come to your cabin at the scheduled time on Tuesday. Please be ready at this time. It does not cost anything to have your group picture taken. You will receive one picture free for your cabin when you place a paid order.

To assure better service, assign someone from your group to take orders and collect the money to hand the photographer when he comes to your cabin on Tuesday. Group cabin pictures will cost \$5.00 for a 5 x 7 or \$8.00 for an 8" x 10" color print. Finished pictures will be delivered to your cabin Friday afternoon. Anyone not satisfied with his or her picture may return it for a refund. Make your checks payable to Tom Flora Photography.

#### Where's My Picture Schedule?

You will receive your picture time when you arrive on Monday at registration. If a conflict arises with your scheduled picture time, you can go to the Photo Hut (across from the Nunny Cha-Ha Bridge Bus Stop) on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m to reschedule. Additional guestions for Tom Flora Photography can be directed to their studio at (405) 273-8631 or (800) 301-8740.



#### RESPIEATION

All churches and individuals are invited to participate in Falls Creek recreation. To participate in any recreation, campers must have on a registration wristband. Day quest wristbands are not acceptable for recreation.

Most of the recreation options will be at the Riverfront Recreation Field, including volleyball, basketball, softball, horseshoes and disc golf. Churches are responsible for providing water for their group recreation. Churches are also responsible for making sure their students have the appropriate clothing attire to participate in recreational activities. Recreation staff will provide the adult sponsor accompanying the students at the rec field a debriefing guide to complete with their team after softball and volleyball games. Please remember the recreation debriefing time when you are coordinating schedules and planning for adult leadership.

If your group plans to participate in volleyball or softball, the lead sponsor should fill out the Volleyball/Softball Registration Form (printed on pages 28-29 of this book or online at www.skopos.org). Please make copies of the form if you need additional space. Your completed Volleyball/Softball Registration Form should be turned in at registration on Monday (keep a copy for your records) to select the game times for your teams for the week.

#### **Basketball Three Point Shoot-Out Tournament**

How good is your basketball shot? Find out if you are the best shooter at Falls Creek by participating in the Three Point Shoot-Out on Tuesday between 1:30-4:00 p.m. at the Riverfront Recreation Field's basketball court. All participants must bring their own rebounder. If participants do not have a rebounder, they must rebound after their shots. Participants will qualify on Tuesday for the finals on Wednesday and shoot for thirty seconds from anywhere outside the three point line. Participants will be placed into a tournament bracket for the final competition. Only the shooters on Tuesday have the opportunity to play in the finals bracket on Wednesday. Recognition will be held for guy's, girl's and sponsor's divisions. There is no need to sign up in advance.

#### Challenges/Ropes Course

The Falls Creek ropes course is one of the largest ropes courses in the nation, providing people an opportunity to climb, struggle, sweat, walk and swing from six inches off the ground to over forty feet off the ground. The course operates Tuesday through Friday afternoon, weather permitting. The course usually takes about an hour to go through one of the twelve major element areas.

#### Eight group elements with a reserved time:

40' tall Diamond Challenge Low Ropes Challenges (3) Low Rescue Exercise Amphitheater Challenge 25' tall Net Leap Vertical Playpen

#### **Group Challenges**

The group challenges are designed to teach character, unity, and trust. Each of the group elements requires some advance training and a final debriefing after the group has finished the course. None of the challenges require any major athletic skill. just a willingness to learn and work together to accomplish a common goal. All group challenges are found opposite of the softball field except for two low ropes challenges which are behind the individual elements at Price's Falls.

**During Monday registration,** Churches choosing to participate in a group challenge will select the day they would like their group to climb. On their chosen morning, one sponsor should go to the north counseling room in the tabernacle, meet with the ropes course leadership, listen for their name to be called from a drawing. and choose the element and time for their group to participate on the ropes course. Please note: There are a limited number of spots available. There is no quarantee that your group will be selected for a reserved time, but all churches will be able to sign up for a day at Monday registration to enter the drawing.

Students will be divided into groups of 6-18, with at least one adult in each group of students. Students with no adult supervision will not be allowed to participate in the group challenges. While some of your students participate in the event, others from the group can watch. Though several groups from your church may utilize the course, any single student may only participate in one of the group challenges per week. Exact participation numbers for each element and other details will be given to the lead sponsor during registration on Monday. Four individual elements located at Price's Falls:

50' tall Alpine Tower (16 and over only)

40' wide Bouldering Wall

45' tall Giant Swing (height by choice)

35' tall Climbing Tower (six sided)

#### Individual Challenaes

Individual "walk up" challenges provide individuals and small groups of students an opportunity to walk up and get in line for any of the four elements. These events are also very challenging, but do not require significant athletic skill. Only one of the three individual challenges, the Alpine Tower, has an age limitation. You must be 16 years old or older to climb the 50' Alpine Tower. Every climber on the Alpine Tower must show their driver's license to verify their age. No other identification will be accepted.

The Amphitheater Challenge will be a walk up element on Monday during registration from 2:00-5:00 p.m. and again on Monday from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m. At all other times, the Amphitheater Challenge will be a group event requiring advance sign up.

#### **Disc Golf**

Even if you have never played disc golf, you will enjoy the challenge. Individuals can sian up for the tournament at the Riverfront Rec Hut on Tuesday or Wednesday from 1:30-4:00 p.m. The tournament will begin on Thursday afternoon with the preliminaries beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the disc golf course. Players will be divided into groups of four. Scoring will be kept by the number of throws required to get the disc in the basket at each hole.

#### RECREATION SONT...

The course consists of eight holes, which constitutes a game. The 12 individual lowest scores will play a championship round on Friday at 1:30 p.m. Discs will be provided for practice and tournament play and can be checked out at the Riverfront Rec Hut. The course will be open for individual play Tuesday through Friday each day except during tournament play. The course is located under the trees at the Riverfront Recreation Field.

#### **Fishing**

Catch and release fishing is allowed in the creek, but not in the swimming areas. Campers will need to provide their own tackle. There is no limit on tackle, but please do not bring a fishing knife.

#### 5K Run

On Friday at 7:45 a.m., anyone who wants to participate in the 5K Falls Creek Run can meet at the Nunny Bridge Bus Stop. Four division winners will be determined, top male student and sponsor and top female student and sponsor. No advance sign up is required.

#### Horseshoes

Singles and Doubles will be played in the pit area in the Riverfront Recreation Field. The Singles tournament will be played on Thursday and the Doubles tournament will be played on Friday. Players must sign up in advance for the tournament at the Riverfront Rec Hut on Tuesday or Wednesday from 1:30-4:00 p.m. All participants for that day's tournament should be present at the horseshoe pit, at their assigned time on Thursday or Friday. Students and sponsors, guys and girls compete for one overall winner in the singles tournament. Doubles can be student or sponsor, male or female. One pair will be the overall winner.

A game consists of 21 points. The horseshoe must be in the pitcher's box to score. A ringer scores five points, a leaner scores three points, and the closest scores one point. Horseshoes may be checked out at the Riverfront Rec Hut each day for individuals to play.

#### Skate Park/SwiftSkate

SwiftSkate is a 9,000 square foot skate park designed with all steel ramps, rails, tables, stairs, quarter pipes, a mini-half pipe to spine, and a 30' fun box. The park will be open every Monday through Friday during afternoon free time. Skaters must bring their own board to camp and are encouraged to bring their own pads and helmets.

SwiftSkate is the only area on grounds where skateboarding is permitted and can only be used when staffers are supervising the elements. All skaters will be required to wear helmets and pads. Pads and helmets will be available for checkout by students not bringing their helmet and pads from home. All personal skateboards will be securely stored at the amphitheater after checking in on Monday and will be returned to skaters on Friday after skate time is over.

Times for beginner skaters will be 1:30-3:15 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Advanced skaters will have from 3:15-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. On Monday, the park will open at 2:00 p.m. for students to come and check their boards in and skate until 5:00 p.m. Students must have their registration wristband on to skate. SwiftSkate was made possible by a gift from Hugh and Nelda Swift of Duncan, OK as a ministry to the students of Falls Creek.

#### Softball

Churches interested in playing softball will sign up to play two games on two days of camp. Play will be available for Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday. Your completed Volleyball/Softball Registration Form should be turned in at registration on Monday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

#### **Players**

The entire softball team must be students, with the exception of the pitcher. The pitcher must be a sponsor from the church of the team batting and may not field or bat. The team can be any mixture of male or female students (does not have to be coed).

#### Games

Teams will be on their honor to call each play. Balls and strikes will not be counted; three pitches will be given to each student. If the ball is not put into play within three pitches, the player will be considered out. Softball games will be timed at 25 minutes. When the 25 minute call has been made, play cannot exceed past the end of the bottom inning. At the end of the Evening Tabernacle Experience each day, the game times will be posted at the Falls Creek Office. Tuesday game times will be available at the Tuesday morning Sponsor Update Meeting at 9:15 a.m. or in the Falls Creek Office.

#### Equipment

Each team is required to bring to each game, one ASA or a USSSA12 inch regulation slow pitch game ball. Teams playing softball will be required to use only the bats provided by Falls Creek.

#### Swimming/Lakefront Recreation

Girls' Times
Baptist Lake (Lake Park & Water Slides):
Monday 2:00-5:00 p.m. / Wednesday &
Friday 1:30-5:30 p.m.
Entry Creek (Inflatable Games):
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Guys' Times
Entry Creek (Inflatable Games):
Monday 2:00-5:00 p.m. / Wednesday &
Friday 1:30-5:30 p.m.
Baptist Lake (Lake Park & Water Slides):
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Children under four years of age may accompany either parent at the parent's appropriate swim time. Baptist Lake and Entry Creek require a life jacket, provided by Falls Creek. Baptist Lake has two waterslides and inflatable water climbing elements. Entry Creek has inflatable water climbing elements as well.

Kayak Bend has one and two person kayaks for paddling. There is no swimming at Kayak Bend. Campers do not have to be in a swim suit to kayak, but they will have to wear a life jacket.

**Team Volleyball** 

On Monday during registration from 1:30-4:30 p.m., each church will turn in their form and select the game times for their teams for the week. Churches that do not have a complete team are permitted to pick up additional players from churches not entered in the competition, except for the Red Division.

#### **Divisions**

Blue - Youth Guys (4-9 players) Players must be students, no sponsors.

Pink - Youth Girls (4-9 players) Players must be students, no sponsors.

Green - Middle School Coed (4-9 players) Players must be students who just completed the 6th through 8th grades, no sponsors.

Red - Four-on- Four (max of 5 players, High Competition)

Players can be male, female, student, or sponsor but must be from the same church.

Orange - Sponsors (4-9 players) Players can be any mixture of male or female sponsors with up to two students.

#### **Players**

Individuals may participate only if they have been or intend to be in residence at Falls Creek three of the four playing days. Players must be on the team all week and you cannot add players to a team after Tuesday. You may sign up to play in more than one league, but games will not be started late to accommodate conflicts. This might result in a forfeit, so participate responsibly.

A sponsor/adult is defined as a person who has graduated from high school by one year.

Number of Teams Blue / Pink / Green one team for 4-59 students two teams for 60-110 students three teams for over 110 students

#### Red / Orange

Two teams from each church are allowed

More teams can be added on Monday at late night registration, if bracket space allows.

#### Games

Games consist of fifteen or twenty-one points and must be won by a two-point advantage. There is a maximum of 9 players on the court and substitution is encouraged to allow more individuals to participate. The Red Division must have 4 players on the court.

Any team that does not show up for a game at their scheduled time, any day, may be required to forfeit their games in that event for the rest of the week. Every team that enters the tournament will play each day Tuesday through Thursday. Friday will be a single elimination tournament using the winning teams from Tuesday through Thursday. The winning teams will be recognized on Friday night before the Evening Tabernacle Experience.

At the end of the Evening Tabernacle Experience each day, the exact game times will be posted at the Falls Creek Office for the following day's play and they will be available at the Sponsor Update Meeting each morning at 9:15. For Tuesday's game times, check the Falls Creek Office on Tuesday morning or the Sponsor Update Meeting.



#### **Recreation Review**

#### Events that do not require advance sign up:

- Open Horseshoes Riverfront
- Swimming Entry Creek, Baptist Lake
- Three Point Shoot-out Riverfront
- Open Disc Golf Riverfront
- Alpine Tower (16 and over only, driver's license required) - Price's Falls
- Bouldering Wall Price's Falls
- Giant Swing Price's Falls
- 35" tall Climbing Tower (six-sided) -Price's Falls
- 5K Run Nunny Bridge Bus Stop
- SwiftSkate Amphitheater
- Amphitheater Challenge High Ropes (Mondays 2:00-5:00 p.m/9:00-10:00 p.m)

#### Events that require advance sign up at registration on Monday:

- Group Challenges on Ropes Course
- All Volleyball Divisions
- Softball
- Amphitheatre Challenge High Ropes (Tuesday-Friday, 1:30-5:15 p.m.)

#### Events that require advance sign up at the Rec Hut:

Disc Golf and Horseshoe tournaments

At the end of the Evening Tabernacle Experience each day, volleyball/softball schedules will be posted at the Falls Creek Office for the following day's play and they will be available at the Sponsor Update Meeting at 9:15 each morning in Massey Chapel. For Tuesday's game times, check the Falls Creek Office on Tuesday morning or the Sponsor Update Meeting.

#### Items available for Check Out from the Rec Hut:

Frisbees, Volleyballs, Footballs, Basketballs, and Horseshoes may be checked out from the recreation hut at the River Front Recreation Area. You may check with the rec hut or office in the summer for other options on check out rec items.

#### **Seating in Tabernacle**

Churches who want to reserve seating for the Evenina Tabernacle Experience can send sponsors early to the south tabernacle doors no later than 6:45 p.m. to reserve seats. There must be at least two sponsors to reserve seating for any group, more is recommended for larger groups. At 6:45 p.m. all church names present will be drawn randomly to enter the tabernacle and reserve seating for their group. Since church names are drawn randomly from the names submitted each night, there is no benefit to coming earlier than the time of the drawing, but you do need to submit your name before 6:45 p.m. Churches who show up after 6:45 p.m. will be entered in a secondary drawing for seating.

The sponsors should stay with their seats until their students arrive after 7:15 p.m. Ushers will be in the tabernacle to assist adult sponsors as they reserve seats for their groups. Churches may choose to create a "standard" to hold up as the students enter (after 7:15 p.m.) so your group can find your seating. When the service begins at 7:45 p.m. all standards should be lowered and moved out of the aisle.

Please understand that seats are first come, first reserved. There is no early reservation system for morning experiences. Your high school students and middle school students should enter in by groups for seating in the morning when the doors open at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. respectively. In the morning, high school students can enter through any door, but middle school students can only enter through the south doors.

All groups should always sit together at both the morning and evening experience times. If your group is very large and you cannot find room to sit together in the tabernacle, divide your group into multiple groups but make sure that an adult sponsor is sitting with each group.

#### **Special Needs Students/Sponsors**

The Falls Creek leadership always works to connect deaf students with interpreters during the experiences. If you or one of your adult sponsors is a deaf interpreter, please contact the Falls Creek Office or let us know during registration. Please note that your church is solely responsible for making sure the unique needs of your students/sponsors are provided while at camp. If you have deaf students/sponsors attending with your church, direct them to the designated deaf interpreting sections in the tabernacle in the front of the right middle seating section.

There is no parking around the tabernacle, except for vans that are equipped with wheel chair lifts, have a valid handicap tag, and are transporting someone in a wheel chair. If anyone with special needs requires transportation around grounds during the week, each church should be prepared to transport their campers by car or van. If you have any questions or issues in providing transportation, contact the Falls Creek Office. Churches may not bring golf carts, and the like, for transportation on grounds.

#### New For 2010! - Falls Creek Pin Trading

We have commissioned 23 different custom trading/lapel pins to be sold and/or traded this summer. Several of these pins will highlight our Missions Village and encourage students to pray for the nations. A display of all the available pins will be in the Falls Creek Gift Shop and at the Missions Village. We would also encourage churches to consider producing trading pins for their students to use for trading with other groups who attend camp that same week. Custom trading pins like these have been used for years at places like Disneyworld and events like Odvssey of the Mind. We know this will become a new Falls Creek tradition. We have designed pins of the last six Falls Creek themes, plus pins representing several Falls Creek landmarks, like Boulder Springs and the Alpine Tower. Students will even have the chance to win a "Fast Pass" pin for expedited service at the concession stands! For more information on how to design and produce pins for your group, call Kacie at (405) 942-3000 X 4388.



#### **Standard Design Contest**

There will be a Standard Design Contest, in conjunction with the T-shirt Design Contest, on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. If you have invested a lot of time and creative energy into decorating a standard to identify your group's seats in the Evening Tabernacle Experience, enter your masterpiece for competition in the amphitheater Wednesday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. Standards should not exceed five feet in height and any materials attached to the standard should not exceed three feet in diameter. The judging categories are:

#### **Best Theme Design**

Awarded to the best design that captures the spirit of Falls Creek and/or the camp theme.

#### Best Original Design by a Youth

Awarded to the best design done entirely by a member of the youth group.

Two winners: one winner will be from a church with more than 35 students; the other winner will be from a church with 35 or fewer students.

#### Strange and Fun Stuff

Is there someone in your group that has an unusual talent, fun gift or interesting background? We are looking for people that have unique gifts/backgrounds like Christian international students, state champion something, fun talents, etc. With 5,000 people on grounds a week, we know there are many unique gifts walking around. Would you mind allowing us to meet them? Drop us an e-mail at youth@bgco.org or call us at (405) 942-3000 ext. 4388 or give us the information at the volunteer table at registration.

#### **T-Shirts**

If your group wants to purchase great inexpensive camp T-shirts, visit the Camp T-shirt page online at www.fallscreek.org to view the apparel details and place your order. Advance shipping to your church is included if you order more than two weeks in advance. T-shirt orders placed within two weeks of your camp week can be picked up from the T-shirt Shop. Orders placed three weeks in advance of camp will include printing your church name on the shirt. Extra t-shirts with no church name will be available at the T-shirt Shop but there is no augrantee of stock needed without an advance order. If you have any issues with your t-shirt order at camp, contact the Falls Creek Office at (580) 369-2101.

#### **T-Shirt Design Contest**

The 2010 T-Shirt Design Contest centers on the theme "Sent." Judging will take place in the amphitheater at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Two contestants need to arrive no later than 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday in the amphitheater to register their church. Contestants need to stay for the entire competition. The iudaina categories will be:

#### **Best Overall Design**

Awarded to the design that best incorporates a creative and professional-looking design. Designs must be original.

#### **Best Theme Design**

Awarded to the design that best captures the spirit of the camp theme in a unique, original design.

#### **Best Witnessing Design**

Awarded to the best design that creatively provides an opportunity to share the gospel.

#### Best Original Design by a Youth

Awarded to the best design done entirely by a member of the youth group.

Two winners: one winner will be from a church with more than 35 students; the other winner will be from a church with 35 or fewer students.

#### Youth Minister's Wives Fellowship

Youth Minister's wives are invited to attend a special fellowship on Thursday after the Evening Tabernacle Experience in the Massey Chapel. We know this time together will honor these wonderful servants!

#### **Watch Falls Creek from Home**

You can experience Falls Creek evening services each week online by visiting www.skopos.org.

#### WIFI at Falls Creek

This summer, if you need to connect to the internet via your personal laptop or wireless device, stop by the Falls Creek Office. Connection passwords can be purchased for \$10.00. The password will allow your laptop or device unlimited connection at the WIFI area around the Concession Plaza in the middle of camp and the north lobby of the tabernacle. The password will work Monday through Friday. Each laptop or device will require a unique password.



#### SECTION 2.2 IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL

#### 11:30 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

#### **Bible Study Preparation**

Each year when the students of Falls Creek are asked to identify where they made their most life changing decisions, the students consistently say, "their cabin." That makes your preparation and presentation even more important for your In-Cabin Bible Study at 11:30 each morning. The cornerstone of Falls Creek for each group is the time they spend in their cabin learning, worshipping, and making life decisions.

Every student attends the morning camp-wide experiences in the tabernacle (9:30 – 10:40 a.m. for high school, 10:05 – 11:10 a.m. for middle school). This 11:30 a.m. daily teaching plan builds on the topics and issues that the students will deal with in the Morning Tabernacle Experience each day. It is essential that some of the adults from your group are present with the students at the morning experiences, to help them review what they have learned that day when you begin the 11:30 a.m. time. We recommend at least one adult be present with your high school students and at least one other adult attend with your middle school students.

Each day during the 11:30 a.m. In-cabin Bible Study, you may use the morning Bible study DVD resource (provided with your Falls Creek camp packet) or you may use the live teaching guide printed below. Both the DVD and the live guide cover the same issues, but they use very different approaches to the teaching. If you use the DVD in your cabin, at least consider using the review and discussion questions for each day printed below.

It is strongly recommended that you develop "family groups" for discussion. These groups would be chosen by you and would keep the same members throughout the week. At least one adult, preferably two, would facilitate each group. The adults in the group would help the students think through the material they have been learning during the teaching times each day. Remember, the family leaders are not "teaching" the materials, they are helping the students think and apply what they have learned.

This year's material once again includes an optional Echo Group focus. This section is for echo groups formed in the past year or for new echo groups to use the provided questions to reinforce the Echo Group concept from last year. These groups will meet apart from designated "family group" time. To review: An Echo group is a group of three or four students who discuss their faith with one another on an ongoing basis. They can use the questions provided to begin doing that or to continue doing that. There is not an adult facilitating the Echo Group, these are students talking about the issues on their own. Yes, we understand that many of the groups will not stay on topic. But, if students are going to learn to talk about spiritual things together, they need to start sometime. Adults can be a resource for the Echo Groups, but should avoid the temptation to take over their conversation or to answer all their questions. Some groups are ongoing, some will start long term while at camp, and some students will just be in the group throughout the week and connect consistently with another group of students back home. Remember, an Echo Group self selects; you cannot select their friends, just help them in their friendships.

#### 11:30 A.M. IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY TEACHING PLAN

11:30 Review/Process Morning Tabernacle Experience (in large group or in family groups)

11:40 Teach Segment One

11:50 Q & A as a Large Group

11:55 Teach Segment Two

12:05 Family Discussion Groups and/or Echo Groups

12:25 Optional Closina Wrap-Up/Announcements before Lunch

12:30 Lunch in Cabin

Each day will include a teaching segment designed for a student to teach/share from your group. Consider equipping one (or several) of your students, in advance of camp, to teach a segment each day. If you choose not to have students teach that section, it can be taught as a part of the normal teaching segment.

#### TUESDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY "THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

#### **Key Thought:**

Jesus has been around from the beginning. He has always been our Hope of salvation, God's plan to redeem the world. He has always worked in and through the lives of the faithful in order to bring glory to Himself and communicate that message. As believers, we play a supporting role in His story, not the other way around.

#### **Review Tabernade:**

Let's talk for just a moment about what you heard in the morning session.

How do you feel about all of this Jesus talk? Who did they say Jesus was? Who did they say Jesus wasn't? What do you think?

Whether you realize it or not, this discussion of Jesus involves you. Sooner or later, you will have to decide what you believe about Him and choose for yourself what role you will allow Him to play in your life.

#### Intro:

So, here we are at church camp, and everyone is talking about Jesus. It should be no surprise to you. That's what people at church camp do, isn't it? The question has really never been "what will this week be about?" Instead, it's "what will you do with this week?" See, the impact that this week will have on your life ultimately has a whole lot more to do with your own attitude toward what God has to say to you than with who the preacher is, who the band is, or what the food tastes like. Whether you realize it or not, it was God's idea for you to come to camp, and He has something life-changing to say to you.

Right now, you probably fit into one of these three categories.

#### 1.This is all new to you.

Maybe you weren't raised in church and haven't even been around people who talk about God or Jesus much. If that's the case, we are so excited for you! You are about to learn some really exciting Truth, most importantly this: God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to pay for your sin on the cross so that you don't have to pay for that sin yourself by going to Hell when you die. You can go to Heaven someday if you accept God's free gift of salvation through Jesus and live a life of joy and peace in the middle of difficulty and trial right now and for the rest of your life.

This week, you will have the opportunity to accept God's free gift of salvation and make Jesus Lord of your life. As you consider making this life-changing decision, know that every believer here and thousands of other believers from hundreds of Baptist churches here in Oklahoma are all praying that you will have the courage to make the right choice. Any time you are ready, we are here to answer your questions and show you how to receive that aift.

#### 2. You've heard this before and it doesn't seem to make any difference.

Here's the truth. Jesus does make a difference. Jesus is light in the darkness. He can't help but make a difference when He gets involved in a person's life. If you feel differently, then you have not experienced the real Jesus yet. You may have had a religious or spiritual experience or learned some interesting facts, but you haven't experienced Jesus the way God intended. You haven't made him Lord of your life, and so haven't truly entered into a personal relationship with Him.

Or, perhaps you are a believer who made a very real decision to accept Christ some time in the past and experienced His power for a time but are not living for Him at the moment. If that's you, know that Jesus has never left you. He is faithful when we are not (2 Timothy 2:13). However, when you choose not to make an effort to grow spiritually, you put yourself at risk. You make yourself vulnerable to the enemy and his schemes, vulnerable to the earthly consequences of your own sin, and vulnerable to serious spiritual doubt (2 Peter 1:9).

If you fit in this category, for either of these two reasons, you will have the opportunity this week to either accept Christ for real and begin an intimate relationship that is full of power and meaning or to rediscover what you once had by surrendering control of your life to Jesus once again, letting Him clean out the filth that has collected over time.

It takes courage to deal honestly with God, but you can rest assured that every believer here at camp wants you to experience peace and joy in your salvation and assurance that your relationship with God is real and powerful. You are being prayed for this week as well. We hope that knowing that will make it a little easier for you to make whatever decision that you need to make.

3. You have heard it, believed it, and accepted it. It makes sense to you because you've seen it lived out and have experienced the power of God for yourself.

This week, you are going to be challenged to grow deeper in your relationship with God and to let God put your faith to the test. No matter how spiritually mature we become, we have not yet arrived. As believers, our sanctification, the process of becoming like Christ, will not be complete until we get to Heaven (Philippians 1:4-5), where we will no longer have to struggle against our sin nature. Please do not tune out the speakers. the band, or your leaders in the belief that you already know all that there is to know. As we will learn this week, trials and temptations will come in this life, and we have to prepare continually if we hope to glorify the Father in those moments.

This week, pray for those who have not yet experienced what you have experienced. Ask God to use you to encourage them as they learn what it means to walk in step with Jesus. Ask God to work on your own heart and show you things that don't please Him so that you can confess them and move on. Pray for humility and mercy and the ability to see people as Jesus sees them.

<sup>\*\*</sup> student testimony/gospel presentation opportunity\*\*

No matter where we come from as individuals this week, we all have one thing in common. We are all sinners who need a Savior, first to rescue usfrom our sin and then to help us live lives that please God. We all need Jesus, the only Hope of this world.

#### Part I: Jesus is a big deal!

Is Jesus a big deal? Yes! Then why don't more people act like it?

Here's the thing. Jesus is too big a deal to be reasoned out, explained away, or even dismissed. As human beings, that makes us uncomfortable. We want to control everything, and so we over-simplify the awesome Truth of Jesus. We try to make him fit into our tiny lives by shaving away what we don't yet understand, what scares us, and what we think might offend other people. What we end up with is something far less impressive than the real thing, just as a photo of the beach is far less impressive than the actual beach.

When we show our vacation photos, we get excited because we experienced the things in the photos for ourselves. However, those who look at our pictures are never as excited about them as we are. That's because all we've shown them is a representation of or a cheap substitute for the real thing. We would have to take them on vacation with us for them to get as excited about it as we are. Likewise, if we want people to get excited about Jesus and recognize Him as the big deal that He really is, we have to show them the real Jesus and show them how they can experience Him for themselves. The problem is that most of the people who are talking about Jesus have never really experienced Him for themselves or have chosen sin over righteousness and grown apart from Him, forgetting how awesome He truly is. As a result, what's getting passed around these days is not the real Jesus, but a cheap substitute, a poor representation.

Many non-believers, if they are honest, would describe Jesus this way:

"He was a good guy. I don't really have a problem with people talking about Him, I guess. Some people believe He's God's Son. They say he lived about 2,000 years ago, so I don't know what that has to do with now except that Christmas and Easter are about Him. I can't argue with the fact that he did some good things and gave some good advice, so I guess it's good to read the Bible if you want to and to pray when you are in trouble. I do know that He's the person all the Christians say that they love. I would imagine that the good kids probably talk about Him when they get together and do good kid things."

Many believers (not all), if they are honest, would describe Jesus in this way:

"Jesus is God's Son, who came to earth 2,000 years ago to die for our sin and make a way for us to have a relationship with God. He is the one I go to when I'm feeling scared or depressed or confused. Sometimes, I hear Him talk to my heart. He tells me to do things for Him like give up somethingor tell other people about Him. When I do what He says, I feel good inside. When I don't, I try not to think about it until the guilt goes away. I like being a Christian and having that in common with other people. It makes me feel special, and sometimes other people treat me better when they find out I am one.

they find out I am one. Someday, I plan to be a really serious Christian, but for now, I feel like I'm doing pretty well compared to other people."

Oh man, Jesus is so much more than this! He cannot be confined to the New Testament stories that we hear about Him, and He did not come to earth to play a supporting role in our own individual lives.

Here are just a few truths about Jesus:

- Jesus is the Creator and has been around since the beginning (John 1:1-3).
- Jesus has always been God's plan to redeem the world (Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 42:1-9).
- Jesus was born to a virgin (Luke 1:26-35).
- Jesus lived a perfect life (Hebrews 4:15).
- Jesus laid down his life willingly on the cross to pay the price for our sin and make a way for us to be saved from the natural an deserved consequences of sin (John 3:16, 1 John 3:16).
- Jesus resurrected, conquering death for all who would believe in Him (1 Corinthians 15:20-22).
- Jesus is at work all over the world today (2 Corinthians 6:1).
- Jesus is coming back someday to get his people (John 14:1-4).
- Jesus' kingdom will last forever (Isaiah 9:5-7).

Each of these Truths is way bigger than you. You can't squish it, fold it, smash it, or water it down to make it fit what you want to be true, what you can handle. You've got to open your heart and let God blow up everything that you have built yourself, your own little kingdom, until there's only room for Him. When all you have left is huge, powerful, and amazing Jesus, He will open your eyes to things you never knew or realized before. He will reveal to you His plan and the part that He wants you to play in it. He will fill your heart. You will experience His very real power in your life and the joy of taking part in something supernatural and miraculous. You will show others the real Jesus, not some watered down version, and they will be affected. Lives will be changed.

#### Large Group Q & A:

- 1. Do you know anyone personally that lives their life like Jesus is truly a big deal? How does that pe son's life affect the people around them? How does it affect you?
- 2. How is Jesus most often portrayed by the media? By public figures? In TV shows? In movies? How do those portrayals affect the way people think and feel about Jesus?
- 3. What, in your opinion, most often keeps believers from living their lives like Jesus is truly a big deal? What would it take for a person to overcome an obstacle like that?

#### Part II: Then and Now

Jesus has always been the story, the plan, the Hope of all who trust in God. Everything has always been about His glory. Even back in Old Testament days, Jesus was involved in the lives of the faithful. It's hard for us to imagine that because it seems so long ago. It's important to remember, however, that time is nothing to God (Psalm 90:4). The Bible says that a man's life is like a mist to him (James 4:14). So, in many ways, the things that happened in the Old Testament might as well have happened yesterday.

This week, in our morning in cabin times, we are going to study the life of Daniel and his friends, young men with whom you probably have a lot more in common than you think. The major difference between Daniel and you is that when Daniel walked the earth, Jesus hadn't come to earth as a baby vet, hadn't died, and hadn't resurrected from the dead. The Old Testament sacrificial system was still in place, where a priest would sacrifice an animal to pay for the sins of the people, satisfying God's requirement that blood be shed to cover sin. But, that doesn't diminish the fact that God was just as much at work in the hearts of his chosen people then as He is in the hearts of his chosen people today. By looking at the lives of the faithful that have gone before, we can gain a lot of valuable insight into God's character and encouragement to live by faith today.

#### Read Daniel 1:1-21.

Let's look at just a few of the similarities between you and Daniel.

- 1. Daniel was in the prime of his life. He was healthier. brighter, and better looking than he would ever be again. In a lot of ways, he had everything going for him. Likewise, you, as a teenager, are in the prime of your life. Right now, you are on the front edge of your life iourney. You have every opportunity to make correct choices and set your life on the right path, even if you have made mistakes that you feel are huge. Though you may not realize it, the cards are stacked in your favor at this moment in more ways than not, and God wants to use you in ways right now that may not be an option later in your life. Don't miss it!
- 2. Daniel was not in full control of his circumstances. This is true in a couple of ways. First, Kina Nebuchadnezzer kidnapped him. stealing him away from his family and friends and everything that was familiar to him, and brought him to Babylon to serve in his court. He was locked away for three years of training for a future that he had not chosen for himself. As a young, handsome, intelligent man of noble birth with great potential and opportunity to succeed by worldly standards, this must have been a huge blow to Daniel.

At this stage of your life, all of you can relate to Daniel on some level. As minors, you are subject to your parents, your avardians, various other authority figures in your life, and ultimately the courts when things go badly in your home. For now, your life has to fit within the parameters of the decisions that others are making for themselves and, indirectly or directly, for you. It can be frustrating at times, to be sure. Some of you are experiencing a more intense frustration, much like Daniel's. Your life has been turned upside down by other people without your consent. If that's you, don't despair...

At first glance, it looks like the enemy has defeated Daniel; but, if we look more closely, we'll see that God is truly in control of every detail of what Daniel is going through. The King might have thought that he was the one in charge, but this passage says that his defeat of Judah only happened because God allowed it (Dan 1:2). Not only that, but God was in complete control of every detail of Daniel's imprisonment, even causing the chief official to favor Daniel without the official's even knowing that God had caused him to feel that way (Dan 1:9).

Likewise, no matter what you happen to be going through or who may seem to be in control of the situation, you can rest assured that God is in full command. Nothing happens in this life unless He allows it. Although it might be difficult to understand why He would allow something to happen to you, you can rest assured that He is using both the good and the bad for your ultimate, if not immediate, good (Romans 8:28) and will use all of it to bring glory to Himself, as well He should considering the fact that He IS God and we are not.

3. Daniel was given an opportunity to know God and His ways. Having been raised a male in Jewish culture, Daniel would have been well versed in the history of his people and known much about the God of his fathers. Even in the middle of trial, when emotion can run high, he would have had the knowledge of God to rely on, the assurance that God had always been faithful. This knowledge alone is enough to go on when a person is deciding whether or not to do what is right and how to respond in stressful situations.

Likewise, whether you have been raised in church or not, God is giving you the opportunity to learn His Truth this week. What you learn will be enough to sustain you in hard times and help you to discern what is right. What you choose to do with that knowledge is up to you, though. No one can make that decision for you.

- 4. Daniel faced trials. Being kidnapped and told to eat food that was too rich for him was the least of Daniel's worries. We will see that things get worse for Daniel before they get better. Life is hard. It's always been hard, and the people of God were not always spared trials. In fact, it was often through trials that they grew closer to God and got to experience His power in ways they otherwise wouldn't have. We'll see later on how God used Daniel's hardships to further His kinadom. Believer or not, you can expect to face difficulties in this life because we live in a sinful world. However, when those trials come, those who have a relationship with Jesus can endure those trials with grace, peace, and joy if they only rely on God's wisdom and power to see them through while those who don't know Him personally are forced to forge ahead on their
- 5. Daniel received pressure to do wrong. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted Daniel and his friends to eat food from the royal table, much of which would not have met the strict dietary requirements of the Jewish faith. Now that is some serious pressure. Daniel could've been killed for even asking to deviate from the King's wishes, not to mention all of the ribbing he probably took from the other Jewish young men who decided to go with the flow and do as the king said. However, if Daniel had eaten that food, he would have knowingly done something wrong and chosen to allow himself to be made unclean by the world. Ultimately, he cared more about pleasing God than his own life.

Peer pressure is no new thing, and all of the things that you are tempted by have been around in one form or another since the Old Testament (Ecclesiastes 1:9). See, sin is a heart issue. It says, "Me first. I know best. I do not acknowledge God for who He is or assign Him the worth He deserves." It separates us from God. Because all sin comes from the same place and has the same effect, God sees all sin as equal (James 2:10). For Daniel, eating food considered to be unclean would have revealed a heart that cared more for his own safety and comfort than his reverence for God. For you...well, sin can take on as many forms as there are people. We are all tempted by sin on a regular basis, and we all receive real pressure to choose sin over God's will.

6. Daniel had a choice to make. At first glance, it doesn't look like Daniel has much of a choice. At least the other guys with Daniel and his buddies didn't seem to think so. They were from the same background as Daniel, but they chose to obey the king. And, you know, if this story had happened today, few of us would really have blamed Daniel for eating the king's food if he had. After all, what choice did he really have? It was either eat the king's food or risk death by asking to do something that could really tick the king off. Compliance vs. Death. Hmmm. For most of us, self-preservation wins out every time. Daniel didn't see it that way, though. He was willing to risk death in order to please God, something that should be true of each of us (Matthew 16:26).

No matter the situation that you find yourself in, you have a choice to make when tempted. Sure, you could face persecution, maybe even death, for choosing to obey God, but God would tell us that he is worth it. How can we justify preserving our own lives to a God that gave His Son's? It sounds harsh, but it's true. Maybe it's one of those Truths that we like to overlook when trying to squish the Truth of Jesus down into something we can handle. The Bible says that God will always provide a way out when we are tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13). He doesn't say that that way out is always going to be safe.

7. Daniel's life affected those around him. Daniel wasn't the only one to choose to do what was right. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego also made the right choice. We don't know whether they would have done that without Daniel's influence, but we do know that it was Daniel that approached the guard to ask if they could eat vegetables instead. His actions affected his friends, the guard, and the rest of the Jewish young men that had been taken captive, and King Nebuchadnezzar. God blessed Daniel and his friends for their obedience. In the end, all benefitted from his doing what was right.

Your life, too, affects those around you. When you have the courage to stand up and do what's right, you make it easier for those around you to do the right thing. When God blesses you, those around you are blessed as well. When you lose your nerve or resolve and give in to temptation, it discourages other believers and robs those around you of the opportunity to watch God work through you. As much as we'd like to think that we can do what we want and no one will know or feel the effects, it's just not true.

#### **Family Group:**

1. Of the three groups mentioned in the introduction today, which one describes you best? Is this Jesus and God stuff new to you? Are you wondering whether Jesus can really make a difference? Or are you living your life like Jesus is a big deal and experiencing His power in your life?

2. If you know that you have a relationship with Jesus, please share with the group when and where you accepted Christ and the circumstances leading up to the moment that you gave your life to Jesus. What difference

has Jesus made in your life? What is He doing in your life right now?

- 3. What are you most looking forward to this week? What are you dreading?
- 4. What do you think God wants to do in your life this week? What do you want Him to do? What do you NOT want Him to do?
- 5. In what way(s) can you relate to Daniel? What have you gone through or are you going through that is similar to his situation? How might God want to use that situation to deepen your relationship with and love for Him? How might He want to use that to affect others around you?

  6. How can we pray for you this week? Spend time praying for each person in the group in whatever way works best for your group.

#### **Optional Echo group questions:**

- 1. Was this a Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego year for you all? Did you work together as a team?
- 2. What did God do in your lives as a group and as individuals?
- 3. How did God use you in your homes, your school, and/or your community?
- 4. Pray together as a group and thank



# WEDNESDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY "THE NEED"

#### **Key Thought:**

The world is full of lost people who talk, think, and act like lost people. As believers, we cannot allow ourselves to be offended, intimidated, or put off by that. Instead, we must allow God to teach us how to see and interact with those people like Jesus does.

#### **Review Tabernade:**

What stood out to you in this morning's tabernacle time?

What did God say to your heart?

Do you know anyone who needs to accept Jesus? Do you need to accept Jesus?

#### Intro:

Nothing is a surprise to God. He knows the past, present, and future and is in control of it all (Psalm 139). When Adam and Eve sinned, He was not caught off guard. He could have caused them not to sin, but He gave us free will so that we could come to Him of our own accord. See, forced worship is not sincere worship, and God desires sincere worship (John 4:23).

The moment that Adam sinned, sin nature became a part of all of us (1 Corinthians 15:20-22), it is as inherent as our eye and skin color. Because of this sin nature, none of us is perfect (Romans 3:23). Knowing this full well and having compassion on us, God devised a plan to rescue us from the sin that condemns us to eternal separation from Him. Now, it would be nice if He could just say, "Oh, that's okay. I love you, so come on in to Heaven. Let's hang out." But God is as just (Psalm 9:8) as He is loving (Isaiah 30:18); He must punish sin (Isaiah 13:11). He is as perfect as He is merciful; He cannot have fellowship with that which is impure (2 Corinthians 6:14).

In sending Jesus, God demonstrated his love and mercy while satisfying justice and maintaining His purity and holiness. Because He lived a sinless life, Jesus was able to serve as our substitute. His innocence and perfection made Him an acceptable sacrifice before the Lord. Jesus paid the price that was owed for all the sin of all men for all time when He died on the cross and conquered the power of death over our souls by his resurrection, making a way for all who put their trust in Him to be redeemed, or brought into right relationship with God (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). That's something that no man or woman can do for themselves. Our imperfection condemns us (Romans 6:23), disqualifying us as an acceptable sacrifice for our own sin before the Lord. When we die, we go to Hell and pay the penalty of our sin for all time UNLESS we choose to let Jesus stand in the gap for us, accept His forgiveness, and crown Him Lord of our lives now and forever.

Giving your heart to Jesus is an all or nothing thing, and it's forever. But, there's no other hope for us, no other way to be reconciled to God. Each and every person on this earth needs Jesus, whether they realize it yet or not, and every person will eventually bow and worship Him (Philippians 2:10-12), whether they realize it yet or not. They need to take Jesus up on His offer of salvation now, before it's too late, and it's up to you and to me to get the message out and show them how to begin a personal and eternal relationship with Jesus.

#### Part I: The Lost

#### Read Daniel 2:1-13.

Daniel, like us, was surrounded by people who needed to hear about God, to experience His power in their lives, and to surrender their lives to Him. Daniel's world was much like ours. In fact, it's uncanny how little has changed since Daniel's day, with the significant exception of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection and the subsequent and consequential passing away of the need for a sacrificial system. By taking a closer look at the life of Daniel, we as followers of Christ can learn a lot about how to interact with the lost (those who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus) and function victoriously in a world that is headed in the wrong direction and seems to be out of control at times.

It's important, once again, to note that God is ALWAYS in control. If He weren't, the earth would be just like Hell. The very fact that there is goodness and light in any form here on earth is evidence of God's sovereignty and presence. His grace alone holds back total and complete chaos. He allows us to experience the effects of darkness and sin in the world around us so that we will recognize our innate need for Him and give our hearts and lives to Him in surrender, which is ultimately what's best for us, further evidence of His mercy and grace.

A. Let's take a closer look at the similarities between Daniel's world and ours:

1. Godless people hold positions of power and authority. King Nebuchadnezzar did not worship God. As king of Babylon, he did as he thought was best and that which served his own purposes. He had no moral compass by which to make decisions or to govern how he thought and felt about things. The fact that he was the king probably made him even harder to reach with the things of God. Members of the royal family were always surrounded by people who told them what they wanted to hear, reinforcing their pride and arrogance. It is unlikely that Daniel went into King Nebuchadnezzar's court thinking he could influence the king's beliefs or worship habits. He was probably just concerned about being able to maintain his own religious practices and keeping himself pure before God.

Today, many godless people hold positions of authority as well. God has raised some very godly followers of Christ to positions of influence and authority, but those people are in the minority, even in our country, which was founded on Christian principles. Godless leaders can be, at times, even more difficult to reach with the gospel than other lost people because they are surrounded by people who tell them what they want to hear on a regular basis, hoping to gain something by doing so. We have to remember that godless leaders need Jesus just like everyone else. It may seem that the best we can do is to protect our own rights and stand up under the pressure to conform, but you never know how God might want to use you to influence those with an even greater scope of influence than yours.

2. There are many experts and very little Truth. When the king experienced troubled dreams, he had no trouble finding "experts" to consult. Magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers were in great supply, all ready to help the king out. The trouble was that they didn't know what they were talking about. They were not up to the challenge that the king gave them because they were not connected to the source of Truth, God. They were experts at contrived explanations and thinking on their feet, but they were not wise or correct in their thinking. King Nebuchadnezzar suspected as much when they were so eager and sure that they could tell him what his dreams meant.

In the world today, especially in the United States, there are many "experts." The trouble is that most are not operating by or quoting Truth when they give advice. The most dangerous of these experts are those that incorporate an element of truth in their philosophy and then dress it up with falsehood. People are sucked in by what sounds right or familiar and then swallow up the lies like fish lured in by live bait. No matter your problem, you will find that dozens and dozens of "experts" are waiting and eager to try and fix your problems and give you advice. All you have to do is turn on the television or visit the bookstore to find them. We have to be careful when looking for advice or help that we only open our hearts and minds to the absolute Truth, searching our Bibles for answers and consulting godly advisors, who, by the way, will always demonstrate humility and caution in counseling others because they understand how little they know apart from God.

3. There is a great interest in the supernatural. King Nebuchadnezzar and those who lived in his time had a great interest in the supernatural. They knew that their human power was limited and that things happened that they couldn't explain or control. They knew that such things could only be explained by the existence of some kind of higher power. They simply went looking in the wrong place for answers and fell subject to the enemy's lies because they really didn't know any better. They created for themselves something to believe in. The result was a complex set of conflicting points of view and a hierarchy of makebelieve gods that were distant, unattainable, and very flawed themselves. No wonder King Nebuchadnezzar was so confused, insecure, and panicky.

In our world today, there are very few people that would deny the existence of some kind of higher power, but many, if not most, would ascribe that power to a false god, whether it be a product of human imagination, the enemy in disguise, or their own spirit. It's sad but understandable when you consider the fact that many of them are simply choosing to believe what they've been told, what is accessible to them, and what seems to work for other people because they don't know any better. If we were as open and aggressive with the Truth as the false experts are with their lies, things would be vastly different. People want explanations. People want something to believe in. We need to respond to that.

- B. King Nebuchadnezzar needed God in his life. We can learn a lot about the lost by studying him a little more closely.
- 1. God chose King Nebuchadnezzar long before King Nebuchadnezzar chose Him. God always intended for King Nebuchadnezzar to surrender to him eventually and drew King Nebuchadnezzar toward Himself through circumstances, softening his heart until he knew he had no choice but to surrender to Almighty God. Daniel's obedience enabled him to play a big part in that process.

It's tempting to look at the lost and decide for ourselves whether or not

we feel that they will ever come to know Jesus, but to do so would be to judge others, something we are told never to do (Matthew 7:2). It's not ours to decide who will or won't or who ought to be allowed to come to Jesus as we have. God desires that all come to know him (2 Peter 3:9), no matter how bad we think that they are. He knows who will and who won't, but that doesn't stop Him from loving those who will ultimately reject Him. As followers of Christ, we have to love the lost, too, and focus on simply being obedient to the Lord so that He can use us in the process of drawing the lost into a saving relationship with Jesus.

2. King Nebuchadnezzar is fearful. King Nebuchadnezzar's dream freaked him out because he had a sense that it had something to do with his future, and the future didn't look good in his dream. He knew that he didn't have the answers or know anyone who did, and that made him feel vulnerable to the impending doom he perceived.

The unknown can be very scary, especially where death is concerned. Those who know Christ may be a little jittery about how and when we will die, though God can calm those fears if we let Him, but we don't have to worry about what will happen after we die or whether the things we go through have a purpose. If we have placed our faith in Jesus, we know that we will go to Heaven when we die and so don't have to fear death. Even in the trials of this life, we know two things: that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us, and that He will use all things, good or bad, together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28). The lost do not have that assurance, so it is understandable that they would be fearful. Fear makes people do unusual things. Keeping that in mind will help us in our interaction with people who have not yet accepted Jesus and so don't yet have the peace that we have.

3. King Nebuchadnezzar is seeking the Truth. Though he may not be going about it the right way, King Nebuchadnezzar is to be commended for seeking the Truth like he does in this story. He knows that he doesn't have the answers, and so he looks for someone who does. He is skeptical and reluctant to trust those who claim to have all the answers and wants some kind of proof that what they say is true, so he puts the "experts" to the test.

The people around us have questions, and they want answers. They seek those answers in many places and in many ways. Their efforts can seem to us, at times, illogical, irrational, and a little frantic. The world is more than ready to respond when they ask for help, filling them full of wrong answers and pointing them in the wrong direction. After being misguided once or twice, the lost often grow skeptical and reluctant to trust. They may even put those who claim to know the Truth the test to see if what they claim to believe holds up under pressure. As believers, we should expect some resistance and skepticism when we share Jesus with others. How we respond when tested can have a big impact on a person's decision whether or not to give their heart to Jesus.

#### Large Group Q & A:

- 1. Are you consciously aware of being surrounded by lost people on a daily basis? If so, how does that affect the way that you live your life? If not, how might concentrating on that reality change the way that you live your life?
- 2. Can you think of any specific examples of false experts in the world today? How do you know that they are false experts? Are any of them more dangerous than others? Explain.
- 3. What evidence do you see that people in the world today are open to the supernatural? How can you use that interest to further God's kingdom?

4. How do you interact with the lost people around you most often? Do you see them as people to be avoided or people who need to know what you know and need you to tell them? How might being aware of their fear and desire to know the Truth help you reach out to them effectively?

#### **II: Our Response**

#### **Read Daniel 2:14-49.**

The way that Daniel chooses to respond to the man who kidnapped him and dictated his future without his consent is amazing. By studying his example, we can better map out our response to the lost in the future.

1. Daniel demonstrates compassion and patience. Daniel was not surprised by King Nebuchadnezzar's behavior. Instead of being angry, defensive, and aggressive, Daniel exhibited great patience and compassion in his attitude toward the king and in his explanation of the dream (Dan 2:30).

As believers, we should not expect the lost to act like they know Jesus. We shouldn't expect them to live by the Truth or to demonstrate the fruit of the spirit. When they act just as we would if we didn't know Jesus (and sometimes still do), we must make a conscious effort to understand where they are coming from and exercise the same compassion and patience that Jesus exercises with us instead of lashing out in self-defense or avoiding them all together.

2. Daniel relies on God's wisdom, not his own. The Bible says that Daniel had a lot of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Still, he didn't dare attempt to talk to the king about his dream on his own power.

When dealing with the lost, it is so important for us to rely on God's wisdom and not our own. Just like Daniel had no way of knowing the king's dream or what it meant on his own, we have no way of knowing what a person is going through, what makes them tick, or how God wants to work in their lives. When we rely on what we know or our own past experience without consulting God in our dealings with them, we take a big risk. Sure, we may hit pretty close to the mark sometimes and no one else may know that we're bluffing, but to do so is to play God in someone else's life. We are not called to do that. We are called to be obedient and to communicate God's absolute Truth. In some ways, arrogant and self-reliant believers are even more dangerous than false experts who do not claim to know God or operate under His power.

3. Daniel goes to God in prayer. Daniel wasn't a casual prayer. He prayed earnestly. Scripture says that he and his friends pleaded with God to reveal the king's dream and its meaning to them. When God answered their prayers, he spent time praising God with a very thankful heart. He knew that God was his only hope and help.

God is not a lucky rabbit's foot that you keep in your pocket and rub just in case it will help. Talking with Him and asking Him for help is serious business that requires a humble heart and perseverance. It takes sincerity and focus, and it is vital to your success in engaging the lost. When you promise to pray for someone, you are taking on a big responsibility.

4. Daniel points the seeking toward God. It would have been easy for Daniel to take credit for the interpretation of the king's dream, but Daniel gives complete credit to God for what he is able to do before he even interprets the dream. As a result, the king gives God verbal

credit for what Daniel does, honoring Daniel either out of gratitude for what Daniel has done or to please God. Even though the king doesn't yet recognize God's sovereignty with his life, he takes the first step toward understanding and belief because of Daniel.

When God enables us to do something good, it's important that we give Him credit and use that opportunity to point the lost toward Christ. To take credit for what God does is to accept worship that is rightfully God's. See, every compliment that we receive is like a rose. We can keep it for ourselves, and it will eventually decay and start to stink in the form of arrogance and pride. Or, we can offer it back to God as an act of worship, recognizing Him as the one responsible for any good in us. We are responsible for any missed opportunity to glorify God and lead the lost to safety (2 Corinthians 5:20).

- 5. Daniel speaks the Truth boldly. In his audience with King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel communicates some significant truths:
- He points out that God is more powerful than any man.
- He points out that King Nebuchadnezzar is only in power because God allows him to be.
- He talks about God's eternal kingdom (which will be built on Jesus, who has always been God's plan to redeem the world).

Daniel could've just talked about the kingdoms without emphasizing God's power or sovereignty, certainly without suggesting that the king was

somehow subject to the power of God, something that could've angered the king. But, to do so, would have been to offer a watered down truth and to miss a chance to point the king toward God.

God allows people to go through difficulty in their lives so that they will seek and find Him, and He expects us to point the seeking His way in our communication with them at those critical points. When we play off the Truth like it's just good advice and fail to emphasize God's power and sovereignty in those situations, we miss the point entirely and endanger the eternal future of those we are trying to help. As believers, we have nothing to fear in speaking the Truth and everything to gain by giving glory to God in all things. Even in situations where speaking the Truth is potentially physically dangerous for us, we have no reason to fear. Man can do nothing to us when our souls belong to God, even if they take our lives (Hebrews 13:6).

#### **Family Group:**

- 1. Do you find it easy or difficult to demonstrate compassion and patience when dealing with the lost? Explain.
- When ministering to others, do you consistently seek God's wisdom, or do you wing it, assuming that you know enough on your own to help at least a little bit?
   Do you have a powerful prayer life? Explain. What do you do well? What do you need
- 3. Do you have a powerful prayer life? Explain. What do you do well? What do you need to work on? Do you pray for others the way that you should? Have you seen results from your prayers for other people?
- 4. Do you point others toward Christ with your words as well as your actions? Do you find it tempting to take the credit when you do what God tells you to do? Explain.
- 5. Do you speak the Truth boldly, or do you hold back when you are unsure what the response to your words will be? Do you trust that others will assume that God is the reason for the way you live your life, or do you take that extra step and share the gospel so that they will know for sure and maybe trust Jesus, too?
- 6. What is God doing in your life so far this week?
- 7. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another in whatever way works best for your group.

#### **Optional Echo group questions:**

- 1. How would you describe your interaction with the lost over the past year as a group?
- 2. What can you, as a group, do to intentionally engage the lost?
- 3. How can you encourage an even more evangelistic mindset in one another over the next year?

# THURSDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY "THE CALLING"

#### **Key Thought:**

The "call to ministry" is not a higher calling reserved for an elite few. ALL believers are called to be ministers, and ALL are equipped by God to carry out the special ministry that they have been assigned.

#### **Review Tabernade:**

What encouragement did you gain from today's morning tabernacle time?

Did you learn anything that you wish you'd known before?

What do you think God is up to in your heart this week? In your group?

#### Intro:

When you accept the call to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you accept His call to follow Him and become a minister of the gospel. Immediately, you become Christ's ambassador, or representative, to the world, and from that moment on, God fully expects you to put forth the effort that it takes to grow in your faith, to meet the needs of others, and to share the gospel with those who need to hear it (2 Corinthians 5:20). He expects you to represent Him well because He has given you everything that you need in order to carry out any and all assignments that He gives you (2 Peter 1:3-4).

You may hear people talking about being "called to ministry" when they feel that God wants them to serve in a vocational ministry role. All that means is that that person has a clear understanding of the assignment God has given them or the capacity in which they are to carry out the same ministry of reconciliation (bringing people into right relationship with God through the sharing of the gospel) that you are called to carry out. The call to vocational ministry is of no greater or less importance to the kingdom than the call to be a doctor, a teacher, a mother, an involved member of the community, etc. The same Holy Spirit lives in each and every follower of Christ, and God doesn't play favorites (Romans 2:11). What matters to your Heavenly Father is the condition of your heart and your faithfulness to carry out ministry wherever He happens to take you.

#### Part I: Equipped

#### Read Daniel 3.

This story is not about Daniel, but his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When you read in the book of Daniel, you might assume that Daniel is going to be the star of the show, the headliner in every story. Not so. The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace is a great example of God's impartial calling and faithfulness to allow all hearts that are devoted to Him play a significant role in furthering His kingdom.

Though it might seem at first that Daniel's friends played a lesser role in God's plan, having been appointed to office only because Daniel asked the king to do so while Daniel stayed at the royal court, they were just as devoted to God as their friend was. This story is about the specific assignment given to them by God, their opportunity to demonstrate their faith, their opportunity to point others toward God that Daniel, their ringleader, was not given, for whatever reason. And they passed their test with flying colors.

You may or may not be the ringleader in your youth group. You may or may not be the person that people think of when they think about what a follower of Christ looks like, acts like, or sounds like, but that doesn't mean that you are any less capable of influencing others for the kingdom in a powerful way, experiencing the power of God in your life, or seeing those around you come to Christ as a result of your obedience and effort. The Holy Spirit that is at work in any believer that you may admire or try to emulate is at work in your life as well. Remember that God said that he chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). If you feel that you don't have much to offer God and may be looked down on or thought less of by others, the Bible says that you have something to be proud of (James 1:9). You may have a deeper understanding of humility, submission, and identification with Christ's persecution than many people that you know, which makes you very available to and usable by God.

You, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, just like your pastor, your youth minister, your Sunday school teacher, and the leaders in your youth group...YOU have been given everything that you need to serve the Lord (2 Peter 1:3-4)) effectively and in a way that greatly pleases God. Let's take a look at just a few of the things that you, just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, have been given:

#### 1. You have been given the opportunity to know God.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a leg up on the Babylonians. From the time that they were small, they had been told about God, His ways, and what He expected of them. Though King Nebuchadnezzar may have heard about the God of the Jews, he had most likely never had the opportunity to know people who lived their lives in surrender to that God or recognized the power of God at work in the world, even though it was that God that delivered Judah into his hands.

Even if this week is the first time that you have heard about God and His plan for your life, you have heard it now and have the opportunity to give God complete control of your life and experience His power in your life and intimacy with Him. You've had the chance now to hear the real story, not some watered-down version of the Truth or unrelated snippets of information here and there. Some of you have been very blessed and had the opportunity to know and accept Jesus early in your life and have grown up surrounded by people that could help you grow spiritually. If so, you should be very grateful. That is a gift from God.

\*\*student testimony/gospel presentation opportunity\*\*

#### 2.You have been given an audience and a mission field.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had an audience and a mission field. People were watching them that they probably didn't even realize cared what they did or said or how they lived their lives. At first, it was the chief official at King Nebuchadnezzar's court and the other Jewish boys from Judah. Then, after they had proven themselves faithful, God broadened their influence. They got a personal audience with the king himself. After Daniel interpreted the king's dream, they became administrators with very broad influence. At this point, King Nebuchadnezzar's other leaders began to watch the three more closely as well. When they passed the fiery furnace test with resolve and devotion to God, their story must have spread like wildfire.

Though it may seem, at times, that your audience is limited and that you don't have much of a mission field to work with, rest assured that someone is watching you at home, at school, at your job, in your extracurricular activities, in your neighborhood, at the mall, etc. The way that you choose to live your life, even in the most mundane moments, makes a difference to others. As you grow and mature, that audience and mission field will grow, but it all starts now, where God has planted you in this moment.

3. You have been given a unique set of talents and abilities. Scripture says that God blessed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abedneao with a certain set of talents and abilities that they would have possessed whether or not they had chosen to live for God. Those talents and abilities, along with certain physical characteristics, are the reason that they were chosen to live in King Nebuchadnezzar's court and were, no doubt, the same ones shared by the other men from Judah. Scripture says that they were handsome, well informed, quick to understand, qualified to serve, and showed an aptitude for every kind of learning (Dan 1:4). In short, they were both good-looking and intelligent.

Every person is born with a certain set of attributes and natural inclinations that they will always possess whether or not they choose to live their lives for God. These talents and abilities naturally influence where they live, what they do, how they spend their time, and who they spend time with. God uses these talents and abilities to put people where He wants them so that they can carry out ministry to a specific audience if and when they ever choose to give their hearts to Him.

4. If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you have been given at least one, if not more, spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are gifts given at the point of salvation that enable a follower of Christ to carry out ministry within the scope of the specific assignment God gives them. Because every believer's assignment is different, and may change over time, believers have different gifts and combinations of gifts. Some of those gifts are listed in the New Testament. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived before Jesus, and so did not have the opportunity to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the exact same way that we do today and did not receive spiritual aifts in the exact same way that we do today. However, scripture does say that God gave them special gifts and spiritual insight to be used specifically in their ministry to King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians (Dan 1:17).

It is so important that you discover what your spiritual gift(s) is/are so that you can develop those and look for opportunities to serve the body with those gifts. Remember, although some spiritual gifts may seem more desirable to you than others, all are equally important, as they all serve to advance the kingdom of God. Following are some of the places that you can look to find out more about spiritual gifts:

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-31
- Ephesians 4:11-13
- Hebrews 2:4, 13:20-21

5. When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit came to live in your heart. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, as we said before, lived before Jesus was ever born. Their interaction with the Holy Spirit would have been different than ours. Still, God was at work in their lives, guiding them and walking them through difficulty.

The Holy Spirit in our lives is evidence that we are truly saved. The Holy Spirit performs several functions in our lives. The Holy Spirit;

- Bears witness that we belong to Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:21-22).
- Guarantees our inheritance in God's kingdom (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- Lives in a believer's heart (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- Brings new life (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- Is our Counselor (John 14:15-17).
- Is pained by our sin, especially sins of the tongue (Ephesians 4:29-32).
- Fills our hearts and guides our steps (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:25).
- Reveals God's truth to us and helps us understand scripture (John 16:12-15).
- Helps us turn from sin and gives us reassurance that we have been saved (Romans 8:13-16).
- Helps us communicate with God in prayer (Romans 8:26-27).

#### 6. God will give you the opportunity to share your faith.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, had they had the chance to choose the when, where, and how of their opportunity to share Christ with the king, his officials, and the rest of Babylon, they would probably have preferred to hire a band, hold a rally, and give their personal testimonies, and there would have been nothing wrong with that. However, their opportunity came in the form of a trial, one that threatened to take their lives.

The Bible tells us to be ready at all times to talk about what Jesus has done in our lives and to tell others how they can come to know Him like we do (1 Peter 3:15). It would be nice if the opportunities that we were given were always enjoyable and convenient, but that is often not the case. As a matter of fact, difficult circumstances and trials often set the stage for some of the most powerful opportunities that we will ever have to share our faith. Anyone can be pleasant, kind, generous, forgiving, etc. when everything is going smoothly, but it takes the Holy Spirit at work in a person's heart for that person to endure hardship and still demonstrate all of those things. It gets people's attention and stirs curiosity in them. They want to know what supernatural power gives someone the ability to endure with such grace, and that is our chance to admit our inability to handle things on our own and tell them about God's amazing arace and power to sustain.

Large Group Q & A:

- 1. Why is it hard for some followers of Christ to believe that God could use them in a powerful way? What encouragement could such a believer get out of what we just discussed?
- 2. What makes the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego so amaz-

In what way does it challenge you? Encourage you?

3. Have you ever watched a believer go through their own "fiery furnace" experience in a way that honored God? What was the result? How were you affected?

#### **Part II: Your Responsibility**

#### Read 2 Peter 1:3-11.

As we have discussed, God has given you everything that you need to carry out ministry within the scope of your specific assignment, but He doesn't do the work for you. If you have ever had the opportunity to know someone who truly walks with the Lord, affecting change for the kingdom wherever they go, then you know that it is possible for a

believer to change and grow and begin to look more like Christ over time than they resemble themselves. That doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of discipline and effort for a believer to grow and mature spiritually.

Some people would like to think that they can opt out of having to decide what to do with Jesus. They don't want to accept Jesus as Lord because that would mean giving something up, and they don't want to reject Christ because they think there is something to the gospel they heard. However, not to make a decision about salvation is to choose against Christ. There is no middle ground.

The same is true for spiritual growth. Some believers would like to think that they can accept Christ and then live their lives however they want, not necessarily doing bad things, but opting out of the whole spiritual discipline, growth, and obedience part of Christianity. However, a decision to accept Christ that is void of any intention to follow Christ in these ways is not truly a decision to accept Christ. Salvation comes at the point of surrender. If a person has never surrendered to Christ, that person does not belong to Him; they've only spoken some words. Scripture says that a person who has a real relationship with Christ will produce fruit and will demonstrate their faith by their deeds (James 2:17-19).

While it's possible to surrender to Christ and follow Him for a while, go through a short time of rebellion, and then return to Him, that's dangerous business. While a person that does so—providing their salvation experience was real—is still technically covered under God's grace, that person puts themselves at serious risk of attack by the enemy and makes themselves vulnerable to the consequences of their own sin every moment that they are out of God's will and messes around with the eternity of those whom they were supposed to reach with the gospel while they were living for themselves. They will also spend that time of rebellion feeling miserable. God doesn't let His children stray far. The Holy Spirit convicts and pursues until He brings them back to the fold (Matthew 18:11-13).

All of that said, there is only one way to live a life of peace and joy that pleases God and makes a difference, and that is surrender your heart to God, put forth the effort it takes to grow spiritually, and let the Holy Spirit bring about change in your heart and results in your life. Here are some things that you need to focus on in your efforts to grow spiritually and carry out ministry:

1. Grow in knowledge. Every follower of Christ has a responsibility togrow in knowledge, their knowledge of God's Word and their knowledge of God. To truly grow in your knowledge of God's Word, you have to study it for yourself. You can't possibly expect to learn everything that you need to know about the Bible in Sunday school, Bible study, or from sermons. All of those things are good and worth your time, but they are prepared by other people for groups of people, not necessarily or consistently for your specific personal needs. Remember, the same Holy Spirit that gives your Sunday school teacher, youth minister, or preacher the spiritual insight that they need to teach lives in you and will give you the spiritual insight that you need to grow if you will simply open your Bible and let Him interpret it for you.

You grow in your knowledge of God by taking what the Bible says and applying it to your life. If the Bible says to do something, do it. When you see the results that your obedience brings about, you will understand more about God, His plan, and how He wants to use you. Soon, certain truths will become so much a part of your life that you don't have to think about them too hard to make decisions or do what's right in certain

situations. Your personal history of walking with God through similar situations, your knowledge of Him and how He works, will dictate your actions in certain areas of your life and free you up to focus on other new truths and areas of necessary growth.

When a Christian grows frustrated and stagnate in his/her faith or begins to complain about going through a spiritual "dry spell," you know that something is off. Scripture says that Jesus is the living water and that those who drink from Him will never be thirsty (John 4:13-15). Spiritual "dry spells" happen when a believer hears the Holy Spirit's voice in a matter and chooses not to believe or obey what He says. That's sin (James 4:17), and sin always creates static in your relationship with God, making it feel like He's far away from you. A stiff-necked, rebellious Christian can spin his/her wheels in a spiritual coul-de-sac for a very long time. The only way out is to acknowledge the Holy Spirit, confess sin, and commit to follow.

2. Develop your natural talents and abilities. The Bible says to do everything as unto the Lord (Colossians 3:17). That means two things: do your very best at the things that God has given you the ability to do, and offer your talents and abilities back to the Lord as an act of worship. As you develop those talents and abilities, be careful that you don't allow them to take the place of God in your life. It's very easy to become side-tracked in the pursuit of goals, even God-given goals. It's easy to forget where your talents and abilities came from, especially when everyone is complimenting you and rewarding you for your efforts. It's easy to forget that your talents and abilities are to be used to further God's kingdom and not your personal agenda.

3. Use your spiritual gifts to serve the body (the church). When you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you become a member of God's family and a member of the body of Christ. You belong to every other believer, and every other believer belongs to you. Each of you is gifted uniquely for a specific role within the body. When one of you chooses not to participate in the work of the body, you cripple it and hinder the work that God has given the church to do. It is your responsibility to use the gift(s) that God has given you (Romans 12:4-6).

It's so important for members of the body to support and encourage one another as they learn to use the gifts that God has given them. No one really knows what to do with their spiritual gift at first. It takes practice. God tells us to let people use their gifts (Romans 12:6-8). He knows that we have a natural tendency to expect perfection from one another and that no one is perfect. It takes patience to watch a brother or sister in Christ try out their gift(s) and learn through trial and error, and that is what God expects you to exercise, patience. We've got to cut each other some slack and give one another room to grow if we want to function as a healthy body.

4. Reach out to the lost and take opportunities to share your faith when they come. Sometimes, the lost come looking for us out of curiosity or because of a perceived need or as a result of something bad that's happened in their lives, but that is not usually the case. The Bible says that those who are in sin avoid the light (John 3:19). Just like any other search and rescue team, we've got to go looking for the people who need us if we hope to do them any good while being careful to maintain our own purity. Remember that you will never reach a person with the gospel through compromise. The lost need to see the sincerity of your faith, and if you believe in something with your whole heart, you will stand firm to defend it.

Ask God to help you see people as He sees them, and your eyes will be opened to the needs of people around you like never before. All of a sudden, the person who sits next to you in class becomes the person who needs to hear about Jesus. The pokey cashier at the grocery store becomes the person with so much pain in her life that she doesn't care about doing a good job at work. The cocky, foul-mouthed bully at your school becomes the person who feels powerless and longs for respect and acceptance. Once you begin to see the people around you in this way, the way that you live your life in front of and around them will suddenly take on a higher purpose. You know you have the answer they are looking for, and so daily activities won't seem so mundane, meaningless, or boring anymore. You'll start doing things you wouldn't have otherwise, hoping that they will notice something in you that they need and give you a chance to tell them who He is. You may start talking more openly about church around people, taking the time to encourage them and listen to their problems, giving more generously to others, showing more patience with those who mean you harm. You will be more conscious of the sin in your life and begin to hate it with a more intense passion because it can hinder your mission to reach the lost.

When you live your life like that, you will stand out, even though that won't be something you care about anymore, and opportunities will come. When they do, you have to be ready to tell people what you know about Jesus (1 Peter 3:14-16). You don't have to make it any more complicated than that. When you get the chance, tell them what you know and let God do the rest. Don't be afraid that they will ask you questions that you don't know the answer to. If they do, just tell them that you don't know the answer but will get back to them on that.

When the time is right, tell them that you can show them how to pray and ask Jesus to forgive their sin and take control of their lives and then ask them if they want you to do that. Sharing your faith sounds like a very difficult, theologically challenging thing to do, but it's really not as hard as we make it. To share your faith is to tell someone else what you know about God just like you might tell them what you know about geometry, five paragraph essays, football, or how to do a good back handspring. The important thing is just to try.

#### **Family Group:**

- 1. Are you making the kind of effort it takes to grow in knowledge of God's Word, or are you relying on others to tell you what you need to know? Have you learned more about God as a result of your obedience to His word lately?
- 2. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? How are you using those gifts to serve the body? Are you showing patience with other believers who are learning how to use their spiritual gifts, or are you a hindrance to their development and a discouragement to them?
- 3. What are you good at? What are your natural talents and abilities? Are you working hard to develop those?
- 4. Are you offering your talents and abilities as a sacrifice to God, or are you worshipping them instead of God? How do you think God wants to use your talents and abilities to further his kingdom?
- 5. Do you see people the way that God sees them? Explain.
- 6. Do you go out of your way to interact with the lost in the hopes that you can rescue them? If so, how do you maintain your purity in your efforts to reach the lost?
- 7. How often do you tell other people what you know about Jesus? Do you feel that you have been obedient in this area? If so, what encouragement can you offer to those who find it difficult? If not, what stands in the way of your doing that like you should?
- 8. How can we pray for you today? Spend time praying for one another in whatever way works best for your group.

#### **Optional Echo group questions:**

- 1. Have you done a good job this year of encouraging one another to put forth the effort to grow spiritually, or have you become a social clique like any other?
- 2. How can you hold one another accountable for developing your talents and abilities and offering them to God? How can you guard your hearts against worshipping those talents and abilities?
- 3. Have you used your spiritual gifts to serve the body like you should? Have you made it about yourselves, or have you given others a chance to use their gifts as well?
- 4. Are you intentionally seeking the lost as a group? Are you sharing your faith when given the opportunity and holding one another accountable to do so?

#### FRIDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY "THE MISSION"

#### **Key Thought:**

God's mission is to reconcile the world to Himself. You play a role in that plan, but you are not the Holy Spirit. Your only responsibility is to be obedient to God and then step back and allow Him to work in the hearts of people, something you cannot possibly do. Things won't always go the way that you hope or think they should, but that does not mean that you have failed. If you have been obedient, you can rest content, knowing that you have done your part and that God will grow the seed that you have planted.

#### **Review Tabernade:**

What stood out to you in the tabernacle time this morning?

How has God challenged you in the tabernacle time this week? How will you respond?

#### Intro:

The Bible says that Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). As His ambassadors to the world, we share the same mission. However, while Jesus, in and of Himself, without help from anyone else, was able to actually initiate contact with a person, speak Truth into their lives, AND actually forgive their sin and save their souls, WE are not Jesus. We can initiate contact with the lost, and we can speak Truth into their lives, but we do not have the power to forgive sin and save souls. We can't even get inside their hearts and convict them of sin and show them their need for a Savior, as much as we would like to sometimes. That's the Holy Spirit's job, and sometimes we have to learn to just back off and let Him do His thing.

Although the power at work in us is limitless, our role in God's plan to rescue the lost IS limited. As servants of the Lord, we have to learn to be content to play whatever role we are assigned in a lost person's journey toward God and give God all the glory for anything good that comes from our obedience.

#### **Part I: The Journey**

#### Read Daniel 4.

At least on some level, Daniel must have been pretty frustrated with King Nebuchadnezzar and discouraged in his efforts to point the king toward the Truth of God. It must have seemed to him that nothing would ever change the king's heart. If the king's first dream interpreted by Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's fiery furnace episode didn't make an impression on him, it must have seemed to Daniel and his friends that nothing would and that they had gone through all of that for nothing. It must have been hard for them to listen to the king praise God with his mouth every time that God demonstrated His power in the king's life and then watch the king continue to live in his sin, unchanged by what he saw. It must have been hard to accept praise and honor from the king that should have been offered to God. Still, the four persevered in their efforts to serve the king well and take the opportunities that God gave them to speak and live the Truth.

When the king had another troubling dream, Daniel may have dared to hope that this would be the last straw, the thing that would

force the king to surrender to the Almighty. We see in his conversation with King Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel showed sincere compassion for the king and begged him to turn from his sin before it was too late. Still, the king's heart was full of pride, the kind of pride that God alone could eradicate. A full year after Daniel's warning, a period of grace shown the king by God during which the king could have surrendered, the king is still boasting about his own majesty and power.

So, God took everything from King Nebuchadnezzar, his body, his mind, his position, his relationships. You name it; it was stripped from the king, leaving Him nothing to be proud of, nothing to boast in. That did it. King Nebuchadnezzar finally "honored and glorified him who lives forever (Dan 4:34)." Only when God dealt with the king on the most personal of levels in ways that no one else could, did King Nebuchadnezzar finally surrender.

\*\*student testimony/gospel presentation opportunity\*\*

That's usually how it works. Only rarely does a person surrender to God and accept Jesus as a result of their first exposure to the Truth or experience with God's power. It usually takes time for a person to comprehend and accept God's plan for his/her life, and it usually takes the combined efforts of several or many followers of Christ to help bring them to that point of decision. Very often, a lost person will respond in a positive way to a spiritual experience but stop short of surrender and will return very quickly to their old ways and habits and continue to look in all of the wrong places in search of peace. When this happens over and over again and/or when a lost person acknowledges evidence of Jesus in a believer's life but refuses to surrender to him, the Christians who have been working with that person are often tempted to become discouraged and give up.

We aren't told how Daniel and his friends reacted to the king's transformation after his seven years in the wilderness. We hope that they were thrilled and praised God. What we know of them to this point tells us that they would be thrilled and certainly would have praised God for the change He brought in the king. However, many of us would understand if they had experienced a little resentment and/or bitterness that they did not get to play a starring role in the king's actual conversion. We would certainly understand if Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been even more upset than Daniel, having gone through what they did. If we are honest, many of us, way down deep want just a piece of the glory when someone comes to Christ, some tangible reward for our efforts, especially if we feel that we have given more to the cause than someone else. We want to be the name mentioned in the testimony, the one that gets to stand next to them in the baptistery, the one they will always remember fondly. But that is not what's important.

The only way for a follower of Christ to guard against discouragement and resentment when ministering to the lost is to remember that God is God and alone deserves glory (Revelation 15:3-5), that there is no good play a part in God's plan is a privilege given to us by God, that our idea of how things ought to go gets us nowhere (Proverbs 14:11-13), and that to receive praise on earth for our obedience is to forfeit reward for that obedience in Heaven (Matthew 6:1).

#### Read 1 Corinthians 3:4-9.

#### Large Group Q & A:

- 1. Would you have been frustrated with King Nebuchadnezzar if you were Daniel and his friends? Do you think you would have handled the situation as well as they did? Explain.
- 2. Why do we get so bent out of shape when our obedience to God doesn't bring the results that we want? What's behind that?
- 3. Have you ever been frustrated in your ministry to the lost? Have you ever been tempted to give up? Have you ever been jealous of the role another believer got to play in leading someone to Christ?

#### Part II: Joy in the Journey

Knowing that we are not ultimately responsible for bringing about results in the lives of other people should take some of the pressure off of us and help us focus on what our responsibilities really are. It should free us to enjoy fellowship with God and find joy in the journey. Your responsibilities in regard to your interaction with the lost are as follows:

1. You must remain faithful. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were faithful in the face of death. It doesn't get any more serious than that. They were willing to die if that is what God had for them to do. They knew that He could save them but that He didn't owe them anything.

Guard against conditional devotion to God. Things may not always go the way you hope and plan, but you cannot change course just because things get rough. The truth is that God doesn't owe us anything, and He's already given us everything we need in Jesus. If He asks our life of us, we have to be willing to give it.

2. You must learn to expect trials and view them as opportunities. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew what was coming when they chose not to worship the king's idol. They took that opportunity to glorify God in their display of faith and in their words.

Scripture tells us that followers of Christ will face trials of many kinds. It's going to happen. When it happens, we have to choose to view those trials as opportunities to grow, to identify with Christ in His suffering (James 1:2-4), and to testify to the power of God in our lives. Besides it being our obligation to do so, it is a comfort to know that our sacrifice will not be in vain (1 Peter 1:5-7).

It's important that you prepare for the trials that will come, just as you would prepare for a bad storm, something we know a thing or two about in our area of the country. The way that you do that is to study your Bible, take a good look at the life of Jesus and what He went through. Study the life of Paul. Let the Bible feed you and make you strong. Then, put what you learn to the test. God will prove Himself faithful and true, and your faith will be strengthened. When trials come, you won't have to rely on head knowledge, but will have personal experience. Finally, surround yourself with godly friends and mentors, people who will tell you the truth even when you don't want to hear it.

3. You must learn to rely on God's wisdom, not your own. It might have been tempting for Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to tell King Nebuchadnezzar what they really thought about him or to tell him how blind he was not to see who God was or fear what God could do to him or to retaliate or flee, but they didn't. Instead, they said and did only what God led them to say and do when given the

opportunity. Their restraint and obedience kept the king from being offended by their message and kept the lines of communication with him open for further discussion about God. It also allowed the people watching all of these events unfold to focus on God and His power instead of being sidetracked by Daniel and his friends themselves.

When reaching out to the lost, you may be tempted to do or say things other than what God tells you to do and say. We tend to be impatient and judgmental when the Truth seems so obvious to us. It's important to resist that urge, however, or you may jeopardize God's plan for the person(s) you are trying to help by taking the focus off of God and putting it on yourself or offending those you are trying to help and closing down the lines of communication possibly forever.

4. You must be bold and obedient in speaking the Truth. Daniel and his friends did not hold back when God gave them a message to communicate. They said what they had to say with confidence and didn't sugar coat anything. They also showed "wisdom and tact (Dan 2:14)" in their communication with others.

When God gives us a message to communicate, we must communicate it, whether or not it helps us to do so. Many opportunities for the lost to come to Christ have been missed because followers of Christ have chosen not to communicate the message of the gospel or some encouragement that God intended for them to share because it put them at risk or was inconvenient. Understand this. Doing something God disapproves of is sin, but so is NOT doing something that God has told you to do (James 4:17).

When you communicate Truth with others, be careful that you don't add in your own two cents or pass off your opinion as Truth. God takes it very seriously when people take away from or add to what He tells someone to do (Deuteronomy 12:32). Also, do it with wisdom and tact, demonstrating the fruit of the spirit that proves that you are Christ's ambassador.

5. You must give God all the glory. When Daniel interpreted the king's dreams, he gave God all the glory for his extraordinary ability and communicated God's desire for King Nebuchadnezzar to surrender to him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gave God the glory for being able to rescue Him before they even knew that He would.

It's tempting to accept the praise that people give you when you use your talents and abilities and spiritual gifts, when you share some amazing spiritual insight, when you do something generous because God told you to, or when

God just flat out performs a miracle in your life, but you can't do that and please God. God and God alone is worthy of worship and praise. When you accept praise that is due Him, you set yourself up against Him, and you don't compare.

Do all of these things in worship to God, and the Holy Spirit will take it from there. If things don't go the way that you think they should, relax. God's got everything under control.

#### **Family Group:**

- 1. Are you faithful to God in your words, thoughts, and actions when things don't go the way that you think they should?
- 2. How do you respond to trials in your life? Is it realistic to expect a believer to view trials as opportunities? What's difficult about that?
- 3. Do you, most often, rely on God's wisdom or your own to deal with

things that happen in your life and/or in your interaction with others, specifically the lost? What is the result?

- 4. Do you find it easy or difficult to speak the Truth to others when God tells you to do so? Explain.
- 5. Do you say and do only what God tells you to say and do in your interaction with those who need to hear the Truth, or do you add in your own two cents? Have you ever been guilty of passing off your own opinion as the Truth? What was the result?
- 6. Do you willingly give God the glory for the things that He has accomplished in your life, or do you find that you want the glory for yourself? Explain.
- 7. What changes has God called you to make in your own life this week? In the way that you interact with Him? In the way that you interact with others?
- 8. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another in whatever way works best for your group.

#### **Optional Echo group questions:**

- 1. What can you learn from Daniel and his friends that will help you stay on target in reaching out to the lost this next year?
- 2. Is your goal in serving the Lord to be obedient or to see results? What should it be?
- 3. What encouragement can you take away from today's study as you seek to hold each other accountable this year? What warning?



#### SECTION 2:3 CABIN WRAP-UP/EVENING CABIN DEVOTIONAL IDEAS

The cabin devotion guide is intended to provide a resource for the 10:15 p.m. Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional. Read through the materials before camp and make necessary adaptations to benefit your group. Feel free to use all, parts or none of this guide. If you would like to host a missionary or Falls Creek summer staff member for one devotional during the week, sign up at registration on Monday.

For most churches, there are three goals for the cabin wrap-up: (1) allow students to process with an adult and other students what the Holy Spirit has been teaching them all day, (2) discuss the practical application of those truths when you return home, and (3) allow students to make decisions about their life.

Here is a suggested time format for the Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional. By keeping your cabin wrap-up/devotion time short (less than an hour for all teaching, announcements, family group discussion, etc.), you can help your students and adults get much needed rest.

#### Our recommended structure is:

- Start with a late night snack
- Recognize students (and adults) who have made decisions for Christ, served all day, or have done something worthy of recognition.
- Announcements about the next day
- Interactive opening
- Wrap-up teaching time (review the day)
- Quick closing announcements (cabin curfew/last minute issues)
- Add a worship time, decision time, or other elements based on the traditions, size, and maturity of your group



#### MONDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

#### Interactive Opening (10 minutes):

- 1. Play a game of tag. One person is "it." When someone is tagged, they are "out" and cannot get back into the game.
- **2. Play tag again.** This time, one person is "it" and one person is "the redeemer." "The redeemer" can "unfreeze" anyone who has been tagged out. The person who is "it" is powerless to tag "the redeemer."
- **3. Play tag again**. Keep the rules just the same as last time, only this time, every time "the redeemer" unfreezes someone, that person is not only free, but deputized by "the redeemer" to unfreeze others.

Discuss: Which game was the easiest for the person who was "it?" Why?

Which game was the most pointless for the person who was "it?" Why?

#### Explain:

The game of tag is a great metaphor for life. Sooner or later, death touches us all. On our own, we are powerless to overcome it. However, there is a redeemer who has overcome death and has the power to rescue us from death as well. His name is Jesus Christ. Those whom Jesus has rescued are called followers of Christ. When they live their lives the way Jesus wants them to, they spread His truth and help others find salvation in Jesus as well. The devil, who would like to see everyone die, is powerless against a group of believers working together.

Let's take a closer look at all of this...

#### Teaching/Wrap-Up (15-20):

#### Read John 17:18.

What in the world is going on here? Who is talking? Who are they talking to? Who is being sent? It's like picking up in the middle of a story, and there's a reason for that. There is indeed a story that is unfolding, a story in which YOU play a significant role. Confused? Let's bring you up to speed...

**Part One:** What has already happened...otherwise known as "The Gospel" or "The Good News"...

- God created man to have intimate fellowship with Him.
- Adam and Eve sinned.
- Every human since Adam and Eve is guilty of sin (Romans 3:23) as a result of the sin nature within us, which happens to be as inherent as eye color, skin color, etc (Romans 5:12).
- Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23), and we can't
  get right with Him on our own. God hates that. He doesn't want to be
  separated from us, but he is perfect and we are not (2 Corinthians
  6:14). He cannot go against His own nature (2 Timothy 2:13).
- Out of love for us, God made a way for us to have a relationship with Him.

#### Read John 3:16.

\*\*student testimony/gospel presentation opportunity\*\*

This is what is known as "The Plan of Salvation."

- Those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior belong to God, now and forevermore, no matter what (2 Corinthians 1:22). They enjoy intimacy with Him now (John 15:14) and go to Heaven when they die (Romans 6:23). They have been rescued from the consequences of their own sin. Because of this, we commonly refer to people who have accepted Christ as having been "saved."
- Those who don't accept Jesus will have to pay the price for their own sin when they die by spending eternity in hell (Romans 3:23, Luke 12:5). Until then, they live with a Jesus-shaped hole in their hearts and struggle with the sin that controls their lives (John 8:34).

#### Part Two: What's happening right now...

- God wants everyone to accept Jesus (1 Timothy 4:2) and experience freedom from sin.
- God expects His children to participate in the rescue effort by spreading the good news of Jesus and giving those who still don't know Jesus personally the chance to accept Him for themselves (Matthew 28:19-20). He expects them to be soldiers in this battle to rescue people.

This is where the SENT idea comes in. Just as Jesus was SENT by the Father to seek and to save those who were lost, those of us who have accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior have been SENT by the Father to seek the lost and share the gospel with them so that they can be "saved" as we are.

• There is a very real enemy at work in the world, the same one that tempted Adam and Eve to sin, and he isn't letting up (1 Peter 5:8). He and his demons are constantly on the move, doing all they can to discourage those who have accepted Christ. Although the enemy knows that he can't take their salvation away, he doesn't want them to be effective soldiers of the gospel, either. He is also doing all he can to confuse those who haven't accepted Jesus and keep them from doing so.

#### Part Three: What's coming next...

- In the end, Jesus wins. That has already been decided. One day soon, He will return to earth to gather all of God's children up to Heaven to live with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). He will destroy evil forever and set up a new kingdom (2 Peter 3:13). At that point, it will be too late for those who are still alive but don't know Christ to accept Him, just as it is too late when a person dies now for that person to accept Jesus.
- God has extended a grace period to those who have not yet accepted Christ (2 Peter 3:3-9). Right now, every day that we live is a gift from God, a chance for those who haven't accepted Him to do so and for those who have accepted Him to spread the word.

On this day in the year 2010, you are living your page in this epic story, and, figuratively speaking, your name currently appears on one of two lists, the "To be Rescued" list or the "SENT" list (of course, these aren't literal lists). Either way, your call to action is urgent!

"To be Rescued"

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you are on the

"To be Rescued" list. God doesn't want you to have to pay for your own

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you are on the "To be Rescued" list. God doesn't want you to have to pay for your own sin. When He SENT Jesus, He did so specifically for you. He has also placed people in your life, Christians, whose job it is to share the gospel with you and give you an opportunity to accept Jesus and has arranged opportunities—like your coming to camp this week—for you to hear the Truth of His Word. However, God has given you free will, the ability to accept or turn down His gift of salvation. This week, you need to decide what you intend to do with what you now know.

#### "SENT"

If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, that's fantastic! Your eternity is settled, but that doesn't mean that you can sit back, relax, and wait for Heaven. All around you, people are in need of rescue, and it's your job to get the Good News to those who need to hear it and show them how to accept Christ. There are no time-outs or half-times for believers. The point is for you to take as many people as you can with you to Heaven, and people are dying without Jesus even as we sit here having this discussion. If you are waiting for some kind of "order from headquarters" before you start doing your part, don't! Scripture says that you have already been SENT! So, hop to it, and God will fill you in on the details and develop you as you go.

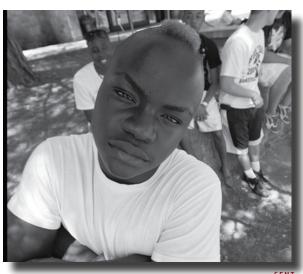
#### Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

#### Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25):

- 1. Briefly introduce yourself. Tell your name, the name of your school, your grade, and your personal interests. If you feel comfortable doing so, briefly describe your family or the people you are currently living with. What brings you to Falls Creek? What do you hope to get out of it?
- 2. Did you know before tonight that you play a significant role in God's story? What information from that story's timeline was new to you or stood out to you as significant in some way (even if only as a reminder of something you already knew)?
- 3. On which of the figurative lists, "To be Rescued" and "SENT," would you expect to find your name right now? Explain.
- 4. If you said, "To be Rescued," was this the first time that you heard "The Gospel" or "Good News" about Jesus and what He did for you? Do you have any questions that we can answer for you?
- 5. If you said "SENT," would you say that you are in the habit of thinking of yourself as being on mission or a soldier of the gospel? Explain. If every soldier in God's army followed your example, how effective would God's army be?
- 6. Why is the message shared in tonight's devotional so urgent?
- 7. What struggles did you leave behind when you came to camp this week? What needs would like God to meet in your life? How can we pray for you.
- 8. Spend time praying specifically for each member of your small group in whatever way works best for your group.
- 9. Let your group members know that you are available anytime to answer their questions, pray with them, or to help them accept Christ if they need you.



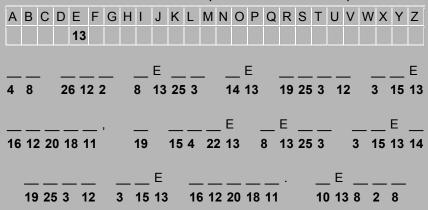
# AS YOU HAVE SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, THEM INTO THE WORLD. JOHN 17:18



#### TUESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

#### Interactive Opening (10 minutes):

1. Divide your group up into teams. Ask all teams to solve the following crypt-a-quote or make up your own. You will want to work it ahead of time to find the answer for yourself. We have not included it in case some of your students have access to sponsor books:



**Directions:** 

This puzzle is called a Cryptogram. At the top there is a KEY that lists all the letters from A thru Z with a box below. Each of the letters has a corresponding number.

The bottom part contains a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. Fill in the letters that correspond to the numbers below the blanks to solve the phrase.

2. Secretly give one team two or more of the letters as a hint, ensuring that they win the game. For time's sake, you may want to give all of the teams one or two of the letters and secretly give one team an entire word. Reveal the fact that you helped one of the teams only after all teams have solved the puzzle.

Hint: "The answer can be found in John 17:18.

Discuss: Which team had an advantage over the other team(s)? Explain.

Wouldn't it be nice to have the answers to life given to you as well? What if I told you that God has given you a sort of "key" to guide you?

Like this puzzle, life is a challenge. The answers are difficult to find on our own. That's why Jesus gives His Holy Spirit to those who give their lives to Him. While human wisdom may be enough to find the answer to the above puzzle, it isn't enough to help us live the life God wants us to live. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives to auide us and help us to see what God sees if we ever hope to live a life that pleases Him.

#### Teaching/Wrap-Up (15-20):

Today, you've learned a lot about Jesus and why He's such a big deal. To recap, let's hit the high points.

- Jesus was born to bridge the gap between man and God (Galatians 4:4-5).
- Jesus died to pay for our sin so we wouldn't have to (John 3:16).
- Jesus resurrected and conquered death so that it wouldn't have any power over us (Romans 8:2).

To sum it up, the Son of God has our backs. Can you even wrap your brain around that one? Of His own free will, out of a deep love for us and for the Father, and knowing exactly what it would cost Him, Jesus gave up everything he deserved to give us everything that we don't (John 14:30)! Incredible! This fact alone is reason enough to give Jesus our entire lives in sincere worship and devoted service, and none of us could really blame Jesus if he were to stop right there, call it good, and maintain His royal distance from us now that His mission is complete. But He doesn't...

Amazingly enough, Jesus wants an intimate, day by day, hour by hour, relationship with us. Believe it or not, He considers us His brothers and sisters (Hebrews 2:11) and actually wants to call us His friends (John 15:14-15). He plans to share His inheritance with us (Romans 8:17) and lets us in on the kind of secrets that He shares only with God (John 15:15, 16:15). In return for that, Jesus expects us to follow and obey Him and become His ambassadors, or representatives, with the help of the Holy Spirit that Hegives us (2 Corinthians 5:20).

#### Read John 14:15-21, 25-27.

When Jesus went back to Heaven to be with His Heavenly Father, He asked God to send the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior to connect us to Him now and forever. What an incredible gift! The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to communicate with God, guides us to do what's right, and gives us what we need to play a part in the lost coming to know Christ.

#### Read John 16:7-15, John 14:11-14.

See, Jesus was smart. He knew that He would only reach a certain number of people at a time while living on earth in the flesh. He knew that He could multiply Himself by sending His Spirit to indwell (live in) and empower His followers in His earthly physical absence, making it possible for many, many more people to be reached than could be reached by one man (John 14:12).

Let's look at what can be accomplished through a follower of Christ when he/she depends on the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### Read Acts 4:1-35, 13:1-12.

When we take a close look at these passages, we see that awesome things happen when followers of Christ choose to submit to the Holy Spirit's authority in their lives. Here are just a few:

- Followers of Christ speak the Truth boldly, even in the face of persecution.
- The lost put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Godless men have no valid argument, and Satan's plans get messed up.
- Followers of Christ are inspired and empowered.
- God receives all of the glory.
- The needs of all followers of Christ are provided for.
- Followers of Christ live in peace with one another and in unity of purpose.
- Followers of Christ stop living for themselves.
- Christ gives His followers discernment about spiritual things.
- Miracles happen.

Did you catch all of that when you first read the stories or did it sound like any other familiar Bible story to you? If you listened lazily or threw this story into the neglected crawl space of your mind for later contemplation that will never happen, take a second look. Soak it up. These are the stories that encourage and inspire us. We've got to be careful to look at scripture and at life with Jesus' perspective and become aware of all that God does, or we will miss out on some big stuff. The Truth is that God is at work all around us. Your days may seem ordinary, one running into the next, right now, but if you allow the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and take control, you'd better hang on! Things will suddenly get very interesting, just as they did in these passages.

#### Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25):

- 1. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, are you in the habit of listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit that lives inside of you? If so, what has he told you most recently? If not, how might your life be different if you got into the habit?
- 2. How do you know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to you? What gets in the way of your hearing His voice clearly, do you think?
- 3. Have you ever met someone who seemed to live in obedience to the Holy Spirit? What made you think so? Describe that person.
- 4. Of the things listed above that can happen when followers choose to submit to the Holy Spirit's authority in their lives, which have you experienced personally or seen in someone else's life? Share your stories.
- 5. Do the believers mentioned in the stories that were read sound like most of the believers that you know? How are they alike? How are they different?
- 6. How would your family, your school, and your community be affected if all believers suddenly chose to submit to the Holy Spirit's authority in their lives?
- 7. In your opinion, what is preventing that from happening? What would it take for all of those believers to get serious about following Christ and living for Gods' glory? What role does God want you to play in that happening?
- 8. What do you hear the Holy Spirit saying to you today? How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another.

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

#### Interactive Opening (10 minutes):

- 1. Divide your group into teams for a relay game. Give each team a closed up bag that you have prepared ahead of time containing a dozen slips of paper, each with a different action to be performed in a specific way written on it. (For instance: Whistle "Happy Birthday" with your eyes closed.)
- 2. Have teams form parallel lines at one end of your meeting space facing the opposite wall. Place an adult across the room from each team holding that team's bag. When the leader says "go," students on each team should take turns running to the other end of the room, taking a slip of paper from the bag, and performing the action written on the paper in the specific way described on the paper.
- 3. The adult holding each bag should keep track of the points earned by that team silently. Each time that a student performs an action that is written on one of the slips of paper, that student's should be given ten points. However, each time that a student performs an action that is written on a slip of paper IN THE SPECIFIC WAY DESCRIBED, that student's team should receive 20 points. (For instance: Whistling "Happy Birthday" is worth ten points, but actually doing it with eyes closed is worth 20). Students will be getting points for reading carefully and doing exactly what they are told to do. DO NOT remind students to read carefully and DO NOT let them know that they are being scored. Let them think that they are simply completing the relay. Remember to keep the tallies mentally.
- **4. Allow all teams to finish.** The team that finishes first may not be the actual winner. When all teams are finished, explain that finishing the race was not the primary objective, and then tell them how you were keeping score. Reveal the true winning team.

Discuss: How did it feel to find out that you were secretly being scored to find a winner instead of being judged by time alone? Would you have done things differently if you had known you would be scored that way?

When it comes to living out our faith, most of us do pretty well by our own standards. While we may struggle with a few pet sins, we feel that we get a lot of things right most of the time and can always "clear the air" with God once a year at camp. If we are honest, most of us are proud of ourselves for having the "biggies" in place: church attendance, not cussing, not partying, helping others when we get the chance, respecting adults (at least to their face), and being nice to people in general. While these are all good things, they are not enough. God requires more of us, and doing any less than what He calls us to is sin no matter how you look at it (James 4:17).

God expects each of us to be active in the sharing of our faith, the actual telling of the gospel story and the invitation to join God's family that should follow. Though we may not get the opportunity to share our faith every time that we minister to others, we have to train ourselves to look for ways to speak the Truth into people's lives. If a significant amount of time goes by and ministry without verbal witness becomes a pattern, we are at fault. Partial obedience is disobedience.

#### Teaching/Wrap-Up (15-20):

We live in a needy world. Everywhere you look, people are hurting. As followers of Christ, it is our responsibility to minister to them and to meet those needs through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through us. We have to be careful, though, not to get so caught up in meeting the physical needs of people that we overlook their spiritual needs. While it's true that the physical needs of those around us are the easiest to detect and often get the most attention, they are temporary, even if they last for a person's entire life. On the other hand, the spiritual need of a person without Christ has eternal consequences...hell.

All this being true, we have to guard against two things:

- The tendency to meet physical needs and stop short of sharing the gospel. When a physical need presents itself, most of us do what we can to help. Efforts are organized quickly, and the job gets done. The problem is that many of us fail to use that met need as an opening to share the gospel. In meeting physical needs, we are confident in our own abilities to carry out the task, but we tend to get shy and insecure when it comes to actually verbalizing our faith. We don't trust ourselves to say the right thing, and so we say nothing. We often use the "my lifestyle is my witness" excuse to alleviate any guilt we feel about having missed an opportunity to share our faith.
- The tendency to withhold the gospel from those who don't have physical needs just because we don't know how to start a relationship/conversation with someone who doesn't seem to need us. To share the gospel is to make another person aware of a deep, personal need that they have, that need being forgiveness and a relationship with Jesus Christ. It can be challenging to figure out how you are going to show someone who seems to have it all together that they really don't, especially if that person is a peer or "outranks" you in the secular social order. We don't want to come off as arrogant, nosey, pushy, or judgmental, so we don't say anything at all.

When we rely on our own wisdom, power, and authority to speak God's Truth boldly, fear and insecurity sneak in and rob us of the joy of helping people satisfy their need for Jesus. If this has happened to you, be encouraged. God never intended for us to go it alone in the sharing of our faith. In fact, He promises us in His Word that He will give us the words to speak when we need them, even when the audience is a difficult one (Matthew 10:19-20). (Of course, we have to be living the way He wants us to so that there is no static in our communication with Him for that to work.) See, God knows the dust that we are made of (Psalm 103:13-14); he made us, after all. As a matter of fact, God is so awesome that He actually uses our weaknesses and limitations to glorify Himself (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) and meet the needs of people around us. Let's see how that works.

#### Read Acts 16:10-36.

Paul and Silas were ordinary people, just like you and me. Even though Paul was very educated and had social standing before becoming a follower of Christ, he chose to give up the life that would have been his to follow Christ and preach a message that wasn't popular among those he used to identify with. He gave up much of what many of us would have relied on just to muster up the courage to share the gospel (1 Corinthians 1:17).

Notice, in this passage, that Paul and Silas relied totally on the Holy Spirit for everything: guidance, provision, power, and the words to speak. That fact alone ensured that their mission will be successful in furthering God's kingdom, even if they faced hardship, persecution, or imprisonment, things that the world might view as failure. When they did go to prison, they remain focused on God and obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading. They accepted what God had allowed to happen in their lives, submitted to His will, and waited on God to use the situation in whatever way He chose to use it, trusting that it was a part of God's plan. It was this very obedience in the midst of trial, this humility, and this sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that set them up to be used by God in a powerful way in the life of the jailer, someone who, at the moment, seemed to be in a better situation than they were.

We don't know a lot about the jailer, but we do know that he had many of the same concerns that people in the world today have. He had a challenging job, a family to provide for, and a void in his heart that needed filling. God put him in a position to have that void filled and put Paul and Silas in a position to help. God began to work on the jailer's heart through the songs that Paul and Silas sang even before the jail opened up. Although most people would say that Paul and Silas, as prisoners, were in no position to influence the jailer, God used Paul and Silas to meet the jailer's deepest, most urgent need when the time was right.

If Paul and Silas had not chosen to stay focused on God, had they not been sensitive to the Spirit's leading, had they taken matters into their own hands and done what they thought was best, they might have done what many of us would do in the same situation when the bars opened. They would have bolted, and the other prisoners would have followed. However, by staying in the jail under the authority of the jailer out of their love for God, they proved the words to their songs to be true and their faith authentic.

The jailer couldn't help but recognize that something supernatural had caused Paul and Silas and the other men to stay in jail. Because of their worship, the jailer knew what that supernatural power was and who to go to for help in finding it for himself. In the end, God used Paul's and Silas' human limitations to glorify Himself and meet the deepest, most urgent need of the jailer and his entire family, something no one could have predicted.

Want to meet the greatest need of those around you? Simply do as Paul and Silas did:

- Rely on the Holy Spirit for direction and guidance.
- Accept the circumstances that God brings into your life and recognize them as potential opportunities to share your faith.
- Stay focused and obedient in the midst of trials.
- Make yourself available to the lost.
- Expect God to work through you in the lives of others.
- Be ready to tell people about Jesus and how they can ask Him into their heart when they ask.

#### Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25):

- 1. Are you involved in meeting the physical needs of people? Explain. Do you use that as an opportunity to share your faith? If so, share one of vour stories. If not, what keeps you from taking that opportunity most
- 2. Are you ever intimidated by the thought of sharing Christ with your peers or those who seem to have it all together? What, specifically,

you about that idea? How can you overcome that obstacle?

- 3. If you had been with Paul and Silas in Macedonia, do you think you would have handled things the way that they did? Explain.
- 4. When you face trials, do you remain focused on God and obedient to the Holy Spirit, or do you tend to waver in your faith and take matters into your own hands? What does your response to trials have to do with God's plan to work through you?
- 5. Are you willing to endure hardship if it means that someone else might come to know Christ as a result? Do you trust God to use your hardships in that way? If God has used your hardship to reach others for Christ, share that story.
- 6. If a lost person asked you right now how they could have the kind of relationship with Jesus that you have, would you have an answer for them? What would you say? Are you ready to be used in this way? Are vou expecting it?
- 7. Are you in the habit of viewing the people around you as people with spiritual needs? Explain. Do you see yourself as someone who can help meet those needs? Explain.
- 8. What do you sense the Holy Spirit saying to you today? How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another.



#### THURSDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

#### **Interactive Opening (10 minutes):**

- 1. To prepare for tonight's game, fold several t-shirts in half, shoulder-to-shoulder. Then roll them from collar to hem. Secure with rubber bands and soak in water for a full minute. Then freeze overnight.
- 2. Ask for several volunteers to come to the front and let them race to unroll the frozen t-shirts. The first one to unroll his/her frozen t-shirt and put it on wins. This will take a while, so you will want to have some upbeat music playing.

Discuss: Was it easy or difficult to unroll the t-shirts? Why?

Which is more useful, a frozen, stiff t-shirt, or a softened, broken, and thawed t-shirt? Explain.

Just as a softened, broken, and thawed t-shirt is better for wearing, a softened, broken, and thawed out Christian is more effective for the cause of Christ than a frozen one. What are some of the things that "freeze us up" and keep us from being used by God?

Fear, regret, insecurity, self-righteousness, selfishness, arrogance, doubt.... this is just a short list of things that "freeze us up" and keep us from being used by God, but Jesus can and will overcome them all if we just let Him. The process may not be easy, but it will be worth it once we experience the joy of God working in and through us in the lives of others who need His light, need His strength, and need His forgiveness.

#### Teaching/Wrap-Up (15-20):

Last night, we looked at the lives of Paul and Silas and how God used them specifically in the life of the Macedonian jailer. It's tempting to look at stories like that and think, "Yeah, but they were Bible characters. Of course they did what God wanted them to do."

But, people in the Bible didn't always do what God wanted them to do. It was as much a struggle for them to follow Jesus and obey the Holy Spirit as it is for us to do the same. Even those that we consider spiritual big shots, like the disciples, made serious mistakes. Paul, the guy who wrote most of the New Testament, calls himself the worst of sinners and writes in one of his letters about his struggles to do what's right.

#### Read 1 Timothy 1:15-17 and Romans 7:15-24.

None of us is perfect. The only good in any of us is there because of Jesus (Romans 7:18). As followers of Christ on a mission to rescue the lost, we can't let our mistakes slow us up or allow the enemy to use our past to haunt us, even if the past is only an hour ago. God is fully aware of our shortcomings, and He still wants to use us in His plan. The Bible says that God is ready, willing, and faithful to forgive us the moment that we confess and turn from our sin, giving us a clean slate and a fresh start so that we can get busy winning souls again (1 John 1:9). Sometimes, we have to ask forgiveness a dozen times in one day. That's okay as long as we take care of that sin before it takes hold of us and interferes with communication with God, rendering us useless in battle.

When trying to do God's will, we have to train ourselves to focus on the fact that He has promised to work through us (2 Corinthians 10:5) instead of focusing on what we perceive to be deficiencies or limitations in ourselves. The enemy wants us to feel defeated and will tempt us to dwell on what we don't have rather than what we do have in Jesus.

Remember, even when we are at our personal best, even when we feel most effective for the kingdom, it really isn't us accomplishing big things or the results we see. It's Jesus. So, likewise, we shouldn't be discouraged when we don't see the results we want. The One at work in our lives is still the same Jesus that brought about big results before, and He is faithful to complete the work that He begins (Philippians 1:6). The important thing is to keep moving, growing, learning, and speaking the Truth. Do all you can with what you've got. God can accomplish so much with a humble, willing, obedient heart!

#### Read John 4:1-42.

The story of the Samaritan woman is inspiring, not because she was an amazing person, but because God was able to use someone like her to reach an entire town. First of all, she was a woman and had no real rights. Second, she was a Samaritan. The Samaritans were considered to be no more important than dogs in that day and age by people of other cultures. Third, she was a woman with a sinful past and was living with a man that she was not married to. Confusing, isn't it, that Jesus chose to reveal His identity to this woman? Not really. The one thing that this woman had that so many others did not, the thing that God still looks for, child-like faith. In addition, she showed a willingness to share what she knew with others. Notice that she didn't have any slick evangelistic presentation to share. All she did was to tell others what she knew—which wasn't much—and Jesus took it from there. He requires no more of us.

Listen, God isn't finished doing great things through ordinary people just because the Bible is already written. He wants to do great things through imperfect you. Don't let fear, regret, pride, jealousy, or anything else weigh you down. Your imperfection and utter dependence on God to do anything good is actually part of the plan and ensures that God receives the glory for the things that He causes and enables you to do.

#### Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-8.

What are you waiting for? Get out there and get busy. God already has a "to do" list for you, even if you just accepted Christ (Ephesians 2:10)!

#### Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25):

1. How does it feel to know that God is not surprised or put off by your mistakes? How does it feel to know that forgiveness is so readily available to you at any time?

2. Have you ever been guilty of judging for yourself whether or not a person could or deserved to be used by God? Explain. Have you ever been judged in that way? How did you feel? How did you respond?

3. Has God placed anyone like the Samaritan woman in your life for you to reach out to, someone others look down on or underestimate? What have you done with that responsibility? What do you plan to do with it now?

4. Who first shared the gospel with you? How would your life be different if they had not? What motivation can you gain from this thought?

5. Has God ever worked through your weaknesses? Explain. Have you ever seen Him work through the weakness of someone else? Tell about it. How did it affect you?

6. When was the last time you were so excited about what God was doing in your life that you just had to tell someone? How did they respond?

7. What do you think would happen in the lives of those around you if you got into the habit of talking about God in casual conversation and telling other people what He has done for you, even the little things?

8. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another.







FUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY AT 7245 PM IN THE CHAPEL.

SPONSORS ATTENDING A.C.I. WILL NOT MISS THE INVITATION TIME OF THE SEVICE.

SEND HALF OF YOUR ADULTS ON THESDAY NIGHT AND HALF ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR TRAINING IN YOUTH MINISTRY. THE TRAINING IS THE SAME ON BOTH NIGHTS.

#### FRIDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

#### Interactive Opening (10 minutes):

1. Make up an in-cabin, scavenger hunt type list of tasks ahead of time. Make sure that the list is made up of diverse tasks that fit a variety of personality traits and skill sets appropriate for the size, type, and gender of students in your group. You may want to use some of the following as a starting point....

One team member must do ten push-ups.

One team member must crawl on all fours from one corner of your meeting space to the other, carrying another one of your team members on his/her back.

One team member must sing our national anthem opera style.

One team member must eat a dozen cookies without taking a drink.

One team member must do a handstand.

One team member must draw a "refrigerator worthy" picture of the rest of your team.

One team member must make one of the adults in your cabin laugh. One team member must play any song on an instrument. One student must complete a long division problem.

The possibilities are endless.

2. Divide your students up into groups of equal number, but diverse size, age, gender, and skill set. When the leader says, "go," teams should race to complete the list of tasks. Be sure to give all groups the same list of tasks to complete and let them divide the tasks up amongst themselves without help from adults. It is important that ALL students participate in some way.

Discuss: How did you decide which team member would carry out which task?

As individuals, were there any tasks on your group's list that you knew you didn't want to or couldn't carry out?

God has called each of us to play a part in reaching our world for Christ, but He doesn't expect us all to do it in the same way. He made each of us uniquely so that He could use us uniquely in His plan. Knowing this, we must learn to encourage one another and value our differences as teammates in the effort to share Jesus and stop comparing ourselves to one another. Together, we make a difference.

#### Teaching/Wrap-Up (15-20):

The world is a big place, and God intends to reach it. The best way to do that is to "divide and conquer," so to speak, so He has divided His "To be Rescued" list up among all of his children. Of course, this isn't a literal list, but God does have specific people in mind for each of his children to reach. To help and prepare them to do so, He has uniquely gifted and equipped each follower of Christ to reach their intended mission field. These are just a few of the things we find in our spiritual knapsack:

- His Word, so that we can know the Truth.
- The Holy Spirit to guide our every move.
- Spiritual gifts to be used in service to the body of Christ, the church.

- Talents and abilities to put us in contact with those we are trying to reach and help us to carry out specific tasks related to our part of God's mission
- A church family to love, encourage, correct, and pray for us as we grow, learn, make mistakes, and discover our purpose.
- Life experience to help us relate to those we are trying to reach.
- The faith to trust and follow Him, even when things get rough, when we get confused, or when things don't go the way that we think they should.

What else could we possibly need? If you think of something, know that God has met that need, too (Philippians 4:19), so that none of us have any excuse not to get out there and reach those who need to hear about Jesus.

As followers of Christ who identify with a specific group of believers in our local church, it's easy to fall into the trap of stereotyping the "kind" of people that you are supposed to reach, what ministry should look like, or thinking that there is only one way to share the gospel. The truth is that God doesn't want anyone to perish (1 Timothy 4:2); each individual has unique ministry needs; and one method of sharing the gospel isn't going to work with everyone.

God doesn't want us to set out in lock-step like Imperial Stormtroopers to accomplish the task before us. God intends for us to embrace our diversity and use it to reach people in ways that are effective and relevant in their individual life situations. Sometimes, that means doing things differently than we have done them in the past. Sometimes, that means ignoring the discouraging words of others and doing what we know for sure the Holy Spirit has told us to do (even if we have not seen things done that way before). Sometimes, that means taking the gospel to people that may not fit the "To be Rescued" profile we have in our heads. Lastly, it ALWAYS means giving our brothers and sisters in Christ room to be themselves, demonstrate the love of Christ in their own way, and engage the people God has laid on their hearts with the Gospel (even when it makes us uncomfortable).

#### Read Acts 10.

God asked Peter to do something that had never been done before, to share the gospel with Gentiles (people who were not Jews, God's chosen people). Although the notion must have seemed weird to him, Peter did what God told Him to do. The Holy Spirit set up every detail of this amazing encounter between Peter and the Gentiles who knew the centurion. All Peter had to do was follow the Holy Spirit's leading and obey. That is all that God asks of us. When God prompts us to share the gospel with someone or to show them the love of Christ in some way, it's not our place to question the order we are given, even if it doesn't make sense to us at first.

The results of Peter's obedience were amazing. Although they probably were confused at first and might have even tried to discourage Peter from going to the centurion's house at some point, in the end, the Jews that were with Peter couldn't deny that the whole thing had been set up by the Holy Spirit and that Peter had done God's will. When we reach out to the people God puts in our lives to minister to, we can't be distracted by the words and opinions of others or let their fear and insecurities keep us from being obedient to God. Instead, we must use that as an opportunity

to lead and show them what it means to be a devoted follower of Christ. God will take care of the rest and will demonstrate His power in His own way through our obedience.

Likewise, when a brother or sister in Christ shares with us a vision that God has given them, we should guard our hearts against skepticism and choose to pray for them instead. Unless what they claim to have heard from God contradicts God's word (God cannot contradict Himself) or requires them to disobey an authority figure (which itself goes against scripture), we should support them the way we would want to be supported. If they are doing something on their own power and didn't get their orders from God, that will become clear to everyone soon enough.

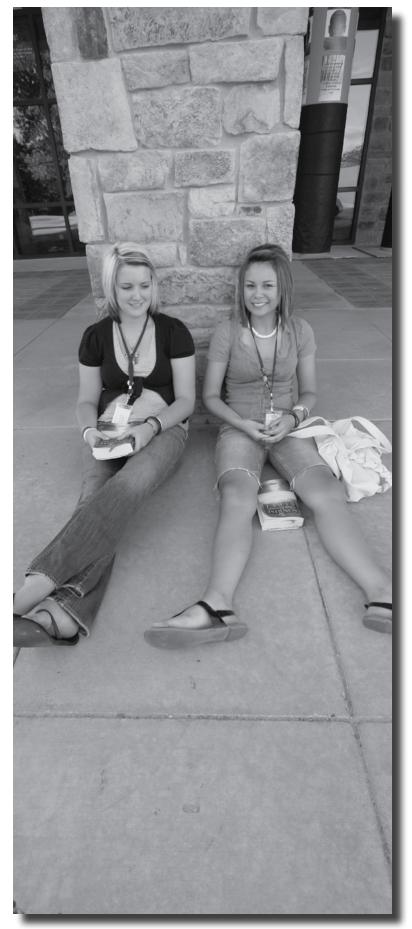
#### Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

As you read this passage, be careful to note that Paul is not saying that you should behave like a sinner to win sinners. That will do nothing but prove that your faith is false and unremarkable to everyone around you. Instead, this passage was written to encourage believers to think outside the box when it comes to reaching others for Christ and to serve others in a way that will speak God's love to them in a language they can understand. Okay, so it's your turn.

Where is the Holy Spirit leading you?

#### Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25):

- 1. When you hear people talk about "the lost" or "people who need Jesus," what comes to your mind? Why is that?
- 2. What groups of people do you consciously try to minister to and share the gospel with? Explain. Could there be other people in your life that God intends for you to minister to and reach with the gospel? Think about it for a minute and see if God brings any to mind. If so, why do you think that you haven't thought of ministering to those people before?
- 3. Are there any people in your life that you don't think you could minister to or share the gospel with? Explain. Who is ministering to and sharing the gospel with those people? What do you think God wants you to do to help?
- 4. How do you think the centurion felt about Peter? How do you feel about the people who played a part in your coming to know Jesus for yourself? Are you motivated by this thought? What holds you back most often from being that person in someone else's life?
- 5. What are your thoughts when a brother or sister in Christ tries to reach out to someone that you feel uncomfortable around or don't understand? How do you respond to that brother or sister in Christ? How do you think your response might be perceived?
- 6. Are you willing to make yourself vulnerable to others (in ways that honor God) in order to win them to Christ? What do you need to overcome in order to minister to others the way that God wants you to?
- 7. What specific mission has God laid on your heart this week? How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for one another.



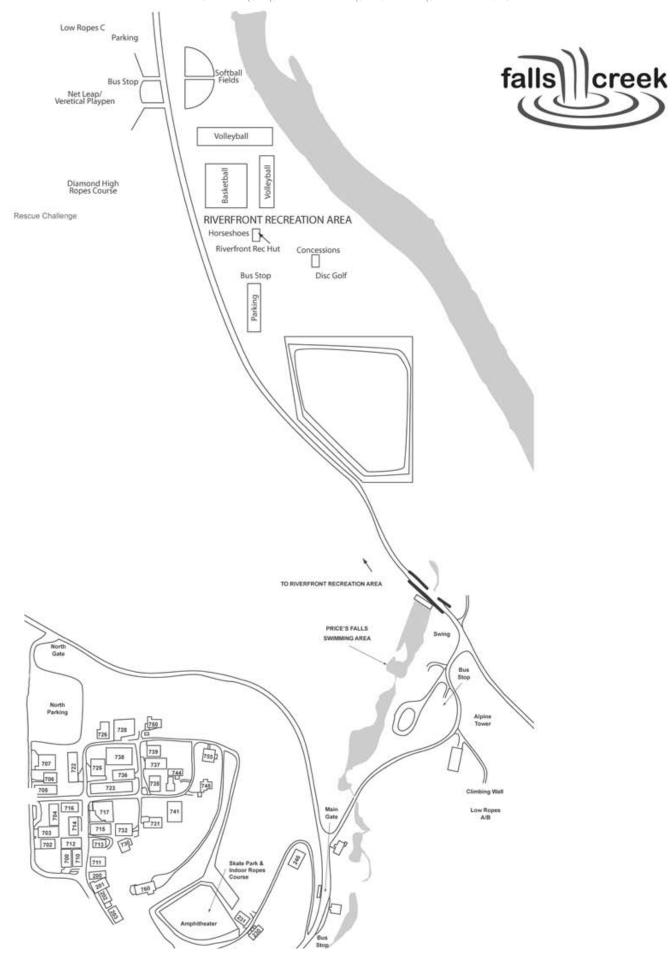
# FALLS CREEK CABIN MAP 726 728 739 738 617 716 91.6 3 712 00.6 00.6 717 716 732 713) 739 711 288 25 1882 T 760 302 303 1339 creek Revised 04/01/10

# FALLS CREEK CABIN KEY

#### NUMERICAL

110	OKC, South Lindsay	430	Rush Springs, Southern	635	Purcell, New Hope
111	Duncan, First	431	Clinton, First	636	McLoud, Hillside
200	Pauls Valley, Trinity #1	433	OKC, Crestwood	637	OKC, Dickson
201	Holdenville, First #2	450	OKC, Olivet	644	Central
202	Hobart, First	461	Ada, First	645	Frederick, First
203	Purcell, First	500	Ardmore, First	653	OKC, Portland Ave.
230	Fitzhugh, First	502	OKC, Exchange Ave.	655	Wetumka, First
231	Waurika, First	503	OKC, Kelham	700	Nash, First
246	Hollis, First	504	Ardmore, Emmanuel	702	Wewoka, First
300	Duncan, Highland Park	507	Blanchard, First	703	El Reno, First
302	Enid, First	508	Fletcher, First	704	Ada, Trinity
303	Norman, First	514	OKC, Fortieth St.	705	Chickasha, Sharon
304	Durant, First	522	Goldsby, First	706	Chickasha, Michigan Ave.
305	Okmulgee, Second #1	525	Geronimo, First	707	Bryan Assoc. #1
306	Okmulgee, Second #2	536	Shawnee, Wallace Ave.	710	Comanche, First
310	Okemah, First	540	Union Valley, First	711	Pauls Valley, Trinity #2
312	Durant, Calvary	541	Kemp	712	Marlow, First
314	Guthrie, Seward Rd.	544	Davis, First	713	Fox
315	Atoka, Southside	545	Ardmore, Southwest	714	Edmond, First
316	Chandler, Southern	555	Midwest City, First	715	Kingfisher, First
322	Wanette, New Horizon	560	Minco, Canaan	716	OKC, Southern Temple
	Fellowship	562	Johnston Marshall Assoc.	717	Chickasha, First
324	Madill, Little City	563	Duncan, Fair	722	Carnegie, First
325	Union Assoc.	568	Velma	723	Washington Osage Assoc.
326	Milburn, First	600	McAlester, First	725	Ochelata, First
330	OKC, Dumas Ave.	601	Healdton, First	726	Duncan, Parkview
334	Springer, First	603	Bryan Assoc. #2	728	Duncan, Immanuel
335	Fort Towson, First	604	Sperry, First	730	OKC, Wilmont Place
339	Lawton, Letitia	606	Atoka, First	731	Weleetka, First
341	Newalla, Countryside	607	Tishomingo, First	732	Fort Cobb, First
344	Lindsay, Banner	608	Stonewall, First	735	OKC, Southwood
346	Medicine Park	611	Graham, First	736	Drumright, First
402	OKC, Kentucky Ave.	613	Ratliff City, First	737	Sulphur, First
403	Comanche, Countryside	614	OKC, Bethel	738	Holdenville, First #1
407	Bartlesville, First	615	Yukon, First	739	Midwest City, Soldier Creek
411	Guthrie, First Southern	616	Perry, First	741	OKC, Mayridge
417	OKC, West Tenth	617	Del City, First Southern	744	Washington, First
420	Ponca City, First	618	Wilson, First	745	Temple, First
422	Jones, First	621	Beckham Mills Assoc.	750	Tulsa, Nogales Ave.
423	Dougherty, First	623	Noble, First	755	Comanche, Patterson Ave.
424	Seminole, First	630	Elk City, Eastside	760	Weatherford, First
425	Sulphur, Calvary	631	Banner Assoc.		
427	Wynnewood, First				
	,				

## FALLS CREEK RECREATION MAP



## FALLS CREEK CABIN KEY

#### ALPHABETICAL

461	Ada, First	713	Fox	653	OKC, Portland Ave.
704	Ada, Trinity	645	Frederick, First	110	OKC, South Lindsay
504	Ardmore, Émmanuel	525	Geronimo, First	716	OKC, Southern Temple
500	Ardmore, First	611	Graham, First	735	OKC, Southwood
545	Ardmore, Southwest	411	Guthrie, First Southern	417	OKC, West Tenth
606	Atoka, First	314	Guthrie, Seward Rd.	730	OKC, Wilmont Place
315	Atoka, Southside	601	Healdton, First	310	Okemah, First
631	Banner Assoc.	202	Hobart, First	305	Okmulgee, Second #1
407	Bartlesville, First	738	Holdenville, First #1	306	Okmulgee, Second #2
621	Beckham Mills Assoc.	201	Holdenville, First #2	200	Pauls Valley, Trinity #1
507	Blanchard, First	246	Hollis, First	711	Pauls Valley, Trinity #2
707	Bryan Assoc. #1	562	Johnston Marshall Assoc.	616	Perry, First
603	Bryan Assoc. #2	422	Jones, First	420	Ponca City, First
722	Carnegie, First	541	Kemp	203	Purcell, First
644	Central	715	Kingfisher, First	635	Purcell, New Hope
316	Chandler, Southern	339	Lawton, Letitia	613	Ratliff City, First
717	Chickasha, First	344	Lindsay, Banner	430	Rush Springs, Southern
706	Chickasha, Michigan Ave.	324	Madill, Little City	424	Seminole, First
705	Chickasha, Sharon	712	Marlow, First	536	Shawnee, Wallace Ave.
431	Clinton, First	600	McAlester, First	604	Sperry, First
403	Comanche, Countryside	636	McLoud, Hillside	334	Springer, First
710	Comanche, First	346	Medicine Park	608	Stonewall, First
755	Comanche, Patterson Ave.	555	Midwest City, First	425	Sulphur, Calvary
544	Davis, First	739	Midwest City, Soldier Creek	737	Sulphur, First
617	Del City, First Southern	326	Milburn, First	745	Temple, First
423	Dougherty, First	560	Minco, Canaan	607	Tishomingo, First
736	Drumright, First	700	Nash, First	750	Tulsa, Nogales Ave.
563	Duncan, Fair	341	Newalla, Countryside	325	Union Assoc.
111	Duncan, First	623	Noble, First	540	Union Valley, First
300	Duncan, Highland Park	303	Norman, First	568	Velma
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726	Duncan, Parkview	614	OKC, Bethel	ship	
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304	Durant, First	637	OKC, Dickson	744	Washington, First
714	Edmond, First	330	OKC, Dumas Ave.	231	Waurika, First
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630	Elk City, Eastside	522	Goldsby, First	731	Weleetka, First
302	Enid, First	514	OKC, Fortieth St.	655	Wetumka, First
230	Fitzhugh, First	503	OKC, Kelham	702	Wewoka, First
508	Fletcher, First	402	OKC, Kentucky Ave.	618	Wilson, First
732	Fort Cobb, First	741	OKC, Mayridge	427	Wynnewood, First
335	Fort Towson, First	450	OKC, Olivet	615	Yukon, First

#### OKLAHOMA YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

#### 2010

August 6-7 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC), Lloyd Noble Center, Norman

September 9 OKYMA, Baptist Building, OKC

September 22 See You at the Pole

November 18-20 Oklahoma Youth Ministry Forum

#### 2011

January 20	OKYMA, Baptist Building,	OKC
April 7	OKYMA, Baptist Building,	OKC

June 6-10 Week 1 Falls Creek: Matt Roberson, Worship/ Lance Sawyer, Evening Speaker
June 13-17 Week 2 Falls Creek: Cody Dunbar, Worship/ Ed Newton, Evening Speaker

June 18-26 GO Students Washington, D.C. Trip

June 20-24 Week 3 Falls Creek: Joel Warren, Worship/TBA, Evening Speaker

June 27-July 1 Week 4 Falls Creek: Stephen Miller, Worship/Tony Nolan, Evening Speakers

July GO Students Extreme East Asia Trips, Dates TBA

July 2-12 GO Students UK Trip A

July 4-8 Week 5 Falls Creek: Jonathan & Lisa Moore, Worship/ Blake Gideon, Evening Speaker

July 11-15 Week 6 Falls Creek: Dutton Band, Worship/ Ed Newton, Evening Speaker

July 16-26 GO Students UK Trip B

July 18-22 Week 7 Falls Creek: Jeff Johnson, Worship/ Lance Shumake, Evening Speaker July 25-29 Week 8 Falls Creek: Dutton Band, Worship/ Jon Randles, Evening Speaker

August 5-6 Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC)
September 8 OKYMA, Baptist Building, OKC
November 17-19 Oklahoma Youth Ministry Forum

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SKOPOS.ORG.





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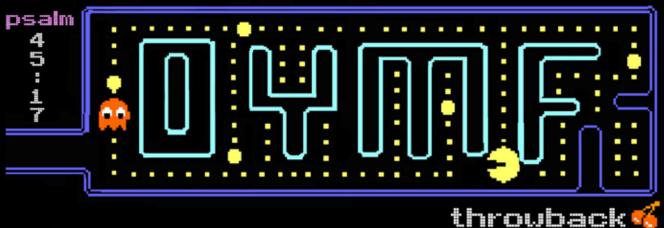
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