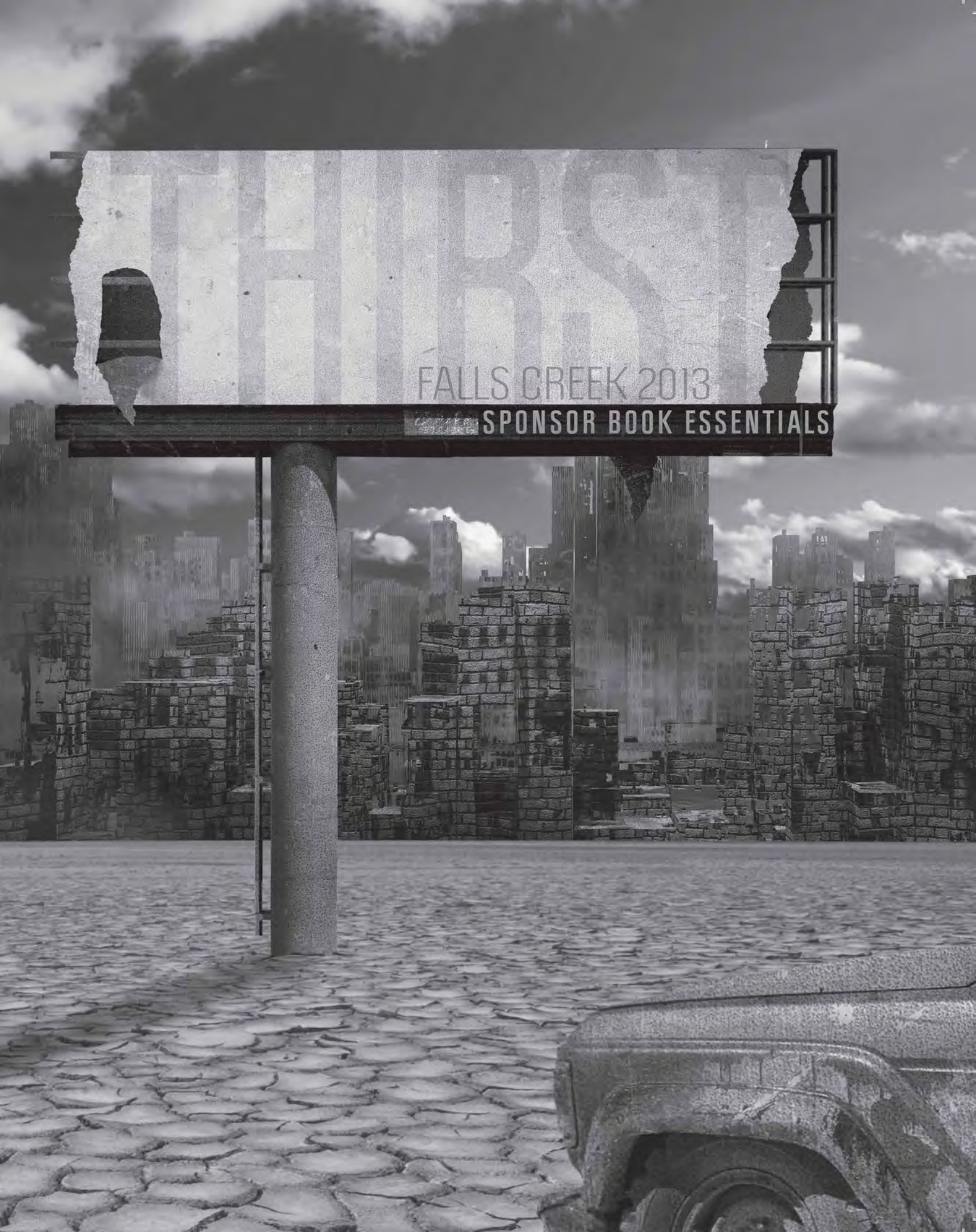


FALLS CREEK 2013

SPONSOR BOOK ESSENTIALS



# DAILY SCHEDULE

## Monday

1:00-4:00 p.m. Registration (north tabernacle entrance)  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Seat Reservations (south tabernacle entrance)  
6:45 p.m. Invitation Training  
(chapel exterior doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
6:55 p.m. Tabernacle Doors Open  
7:00 p.m. Pre-Session Entertainment/Camp Orientation  
7:30 p.m. Evening Tabernacle Experience  
10:15 p.m. Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional  
11:45 p.m. Inside Cabins

## Tuesday - Thursday

6:30-7:15 a.m. Daybreak (Tuesday-Thursday)  
8:45 a.m. Breakfast  
9:05 a.m. Staff/Sponsor Daily Update (chapel/ doors open at 9 a.m.)  
9:10 a.m. Doors Open for Middle School (MS) Morning  
Tabernacle Experience  
9:30 a.m. MS Morning Tabernacle Experience (dismiss at 10:40 a.m.)  
9:30 a.m. High School (HS) Quiet Time (in cabin until 9:50 a.m.)  
10:05 a.m. Doors Open for HS Morning Tabernacle Experience  
(south tabernacle entrance/dismiss at 11:15 a.m.)  
10:50 a.m. MS Quiet Time (cabin until 11:15 a.m.)  
11:30 a.m. In-Cabin Bible Study  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. Recreation & Free Time  
4:30-5:15 p.m. Seat Reservations (South Tabernacle Entry)  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:45 p.m. Sponsor Seating (South Tabernacle Entry)  
7:00 p.m. Tabernacle Doors Open  
7:05 p.m. Pre-Session Entertainment  
7:30 p.m. Evening Tabernacle Experience  
10:15 p.m. Cabin Wrap-Up/Evening Cabin Devotional  
11:45 p.m. Inside Cabins

# OFFICE HOURS/SCHEDULES

## Office

Monday - Friday: 24 Hours  
Saturday: 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 2:00 p.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: 1:30-5:30 p.m. / After Evening Tabernacle Experience  
until 10:15 p.m.  
Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. / 1:30-5:30 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: 9:00-11:30 a.m. / 1:00-5:30 p.m. / After Evening  
Tabernacle Experience until 10:15 p.m.

### Riverfront Recreation Area

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

### Rounds Corner

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

## 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.-7:15 p.m.

## Boulder Springs

1:30-5:00 p.m.

# THIRST

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Monday

6:45 p.m. Invitation Training - Massey Chapel  
(exterior doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
9:15 p.m. Open Skate and Indoor Ropes Challenge –Skatepark

## Tuesday

6:30-7:15 a.m. Daybreak (Tabernacle)  
11:30 a.m. Pastoral Leadership Dialogue –West Counseling Room  
(Tabernacle)  
6:45 p.m. Invitation Training - Massey Chapel (exterior doors open  
at 6:30 p.m.)  
7:15 p.m. Adult Leadership Investment – Massey Chapel  
9:00 p.m. OBU in the Amp – Skatepark  
9:00 p.m. Falls Creek Live – Missions Village Amphitheater

## Wednesday

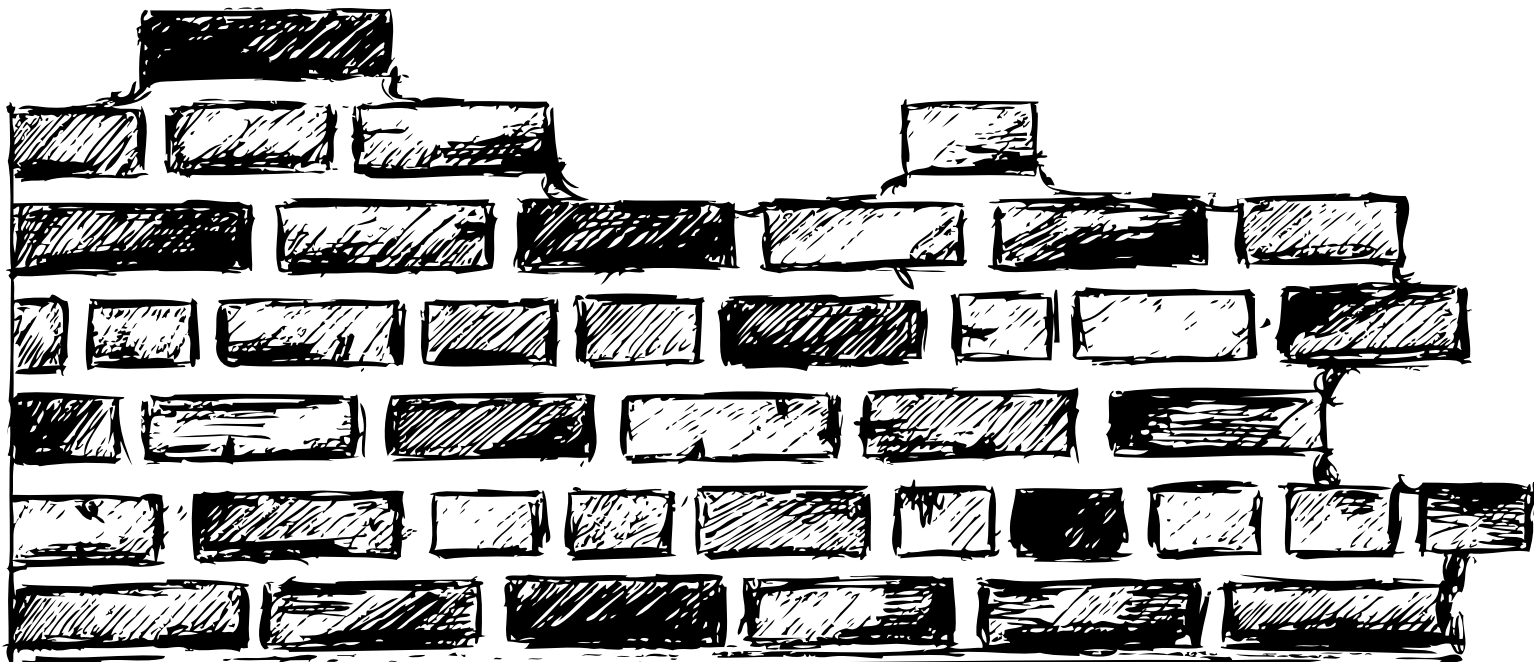
6:30-7:15 a.m. Daybreak (Tabernacle)  
1:15-1:45 p.m. T-shirt and Standard Design Contest – Skatepark  
9:00 p.m. Falls Creek Live – Missions Village Amphitheater

## Thursday

6:30-7:15 a.m. Daybreak (Tabernacle)  
2:00-3:00 p.m. Personal Evangelism Student Breakout – Massey  
Chapel  
3:15-4:30 p.m. Worship Leader Conference – Massey Chapel  
4:30 p.m. GO Students 2012 Party – Missions Center  
5:00 p.m. Cook Off Contest – Cafeteria  
9:00 p.m. Missions Late Night  
9:00 p.m. Open Skate and Indoor Ropes Challenge – Skatepark  
9:00 p.m. Falls Creek Live – Missions Village Amphitheater

## Friday

2:00-3:00 p.m. New Believers Class – Massey Chapel  
2:00-3:00 p.m. Call to Ministry – West Counseling Room  
4:00 p.m. GO Students Informational Meeting



# WHAT HAPPENS?

Here is a brief explanation of what takes place at Falls Creek on a daily basis...

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

This in-cabin time is designed for students to be alone with God. Middle School and High School students alternate their quiet time around the Morning Tabernacle Experience. A short, private worship (Quiet Time) guide based on the theme of the day will be provided for students in the student book, given to every church/person at onsite registration on Monday. The guide can be downloaded prior to camp at [www.skopos.org/resources](http://www.skopos.org/resources).

## **Staff/Sponsor Daily Update 9:05-9:20 a.m.**

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

## **Morning Tabernacle Experiences 9:30-11:15 a.m.**

Middle School and High School students will meet separately in the tabernacle for the morning experience. Here's how it works...

Middle School students begin their tabernacle experience at 9:30 a.m. As Middle School students leave for the Morning Tabernacle Experience, High School students begin their quiet time in cabins. At around 10:05 a.m. the south doors will open for High School students to enter. When High School students enter, the Middle School and High School students will participate in a combined time of worship. At 10:40 a.m., Middle School students will be dismissed to return to their cabin for their quiet time. High School students will move forward for their teaching time. All High School graduates, as indicated by the NC on their wristband, will be dismissed to the Massey Chapel for Next Chapter. All High School students will be dismissed around 11:10 a.m. Both Middle School and High School students will be challenged to explore salvation and our THIRST that is quenched only in Jesus! We use this study to become equipped in personal evangelism. Please organize sponsors to have enough adults to supervise your middle school students, high school students, and your cabin.

## **In-Cabin Bible Study 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 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, taught Tuesday through Friday. Short video introductions to these materials are on the camp promo DVD which was included in your promo pack. These do not teach the material, but simply introduce the in cabin studies. These videos are also downloadable at [www.skopos.org/media](http://www.skopos.org/media). Interactive portions of the in-cabin bible study materials may be downloaded at [skopos.org/resources](http://skopos.org/resources). All churches are required to have Bible study in their cabin to participate at Falls Creek. This means each church needs to prepare to teach their students during this time.

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

Falls Creek provides more recreational options than any person or group could possibly do in a week. Churches may choose to participate in the recreational options available or they may design their own recreational program. Tournament recreation is held at Riverfront Recreation Field with the exception of Ping-Pong, which will be held at the pavilion adjacent to Swift Skate Park.

## **Evening Tabernacle Experience 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

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

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

In-Cabin devotionals, led by local church leadership, reflect the specific needs and issues of the youth group. A devotional guide is provided in this book on as a resource to group leaders needing devotional ideas or plans. Since students have free time from 8:45 p.m. until 10:15 p.m., churches may, if they choose, begin their devotional time before 10:15 p.m. All groups must be at their cabin by 10:15 p.m. Small groups & family 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 need to be inside their own cabin.**

# WHAT TO BRING

## Camper Packing List Suggestions

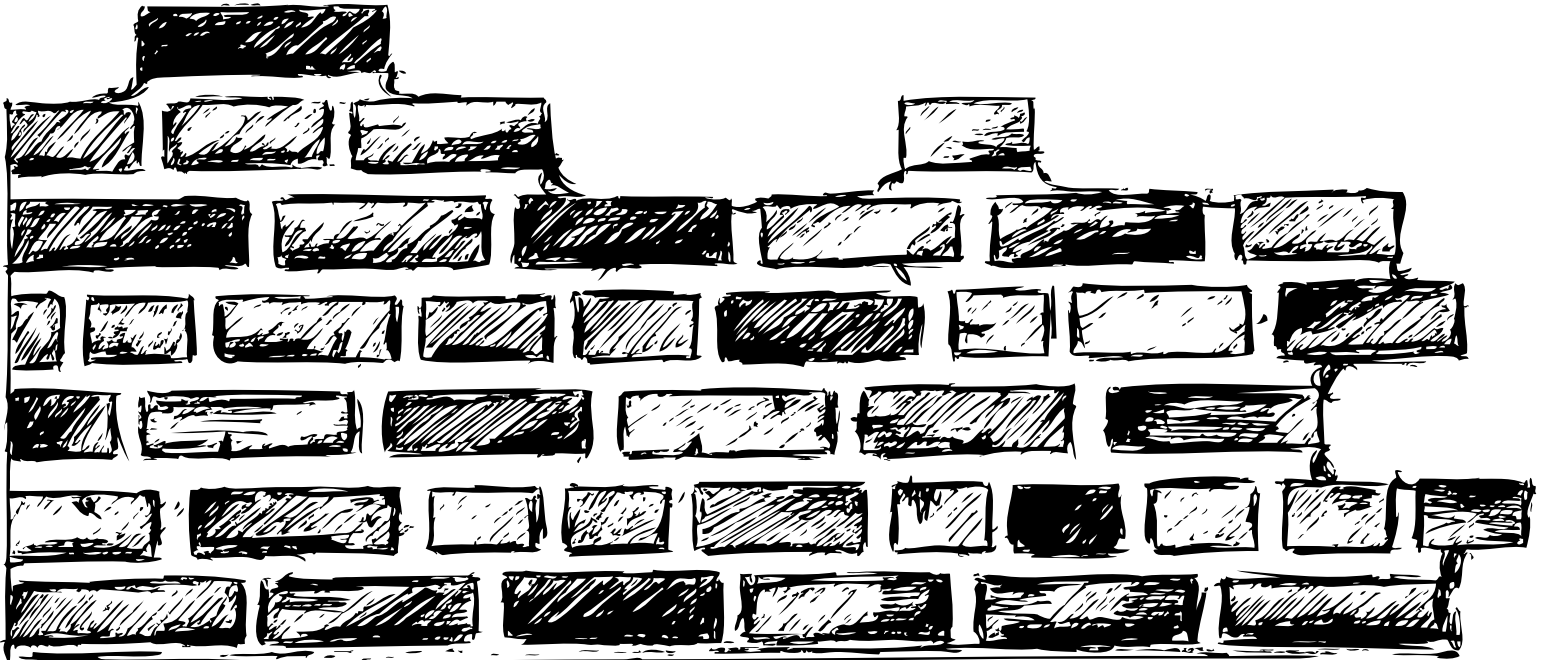
Modest clothing for five days (see dress code)  
Bible  
Notepad/ Pen or Pencil  
Spending money for concessions or gift shop  
(Optional) Umbrella, Flashlight, Camera

## Recreation Items

Modest athletic clothing for sports activities, **(No tanktops or "side-less" shirts).**  
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 glove  
Volleyball (Balls for games are provided)  
Basketball  
Fishing Tackle  
Ping Pong Paddle

## Cabin Items

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



# 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.

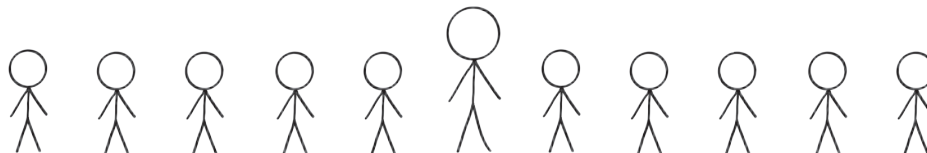
## Family

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.

# ADULT SPONSORS / CAMPER SAFETY

## Lead Sponsor

Each church is required to appoint a lead sponsor. The lead sponsor serves as the church contact person during the week and can be the pastor, youth minister, or a lay person. Churches must also provide a minimum of one sponsor for every ten youth with **at least one male and one female sponsor**. Some churches 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 tabernacle experiences each day.
- Use every moment during the week to equip and encourage students to follow Christ in their daily lives.
- Spend one-on-one time with students in their cabin to hear their salvation story and/or to share Christ with them.
- Have at least one sponsor/staff member from their church attend the 9:05 a.m. 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, students will have a great week at camp. If sponsors are godly role models and use their influence wisely for the kingdom, there will be more spiritual impact during the week. Please only recruit and take adult sponsors that encourage your students toward the goals of camp.

## Camper Safety

### Zero-Tolerance Policy

Falls Creek is committed to a positive, uplifting, Christian environment. Falls Creek does not tolerate and expressly prohibits sexual harassment and sexual abuse. This policy applies to everyone at Falls Creek, including employees, board members, volunteers, sponsors, campers, contractors, and vendors of Falls Creek. Suspected violations of this policy are to be reported immediately to a Falls Creek administrator. Upon completion of an investigation, suspected violators of this policy will be removed from the grounds of Falls Creek. Employees of Falls Creek who are suspected of violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution may ensue. Suspected abuse or neglect of a minor, whether on or off Falls Creek property or whether perpetrated by Falls Creek personnel or others, will be reported to state authorities, as required by law.

## Background Checks

Falls Creek Youth Camp requires that each church perform criminal **background checks on all sponsors 18 years of age or older** attending with their group.

Below, the BGCO has offered a few recommendations as service providers for these checks. These providers all charge a small fee for their services; check with each service provider for pricing verification. Churches are not required to use the recommended service providers and may choose any reputable provider of background checks of their choice. The organizations listed below are provided as a means of convenience and easy reference.

Background checks are run by service providers on behalf of the churches. The church will be responsible for the information contained in the reports and maintain it in privacy. Falls Creek will not seek possession of, nor view the reports. What Falls Creek will require is the Background Check Compliance Form, which warrants the checks were run. This form is available at [skopos.org/resources](http://skopos.org/resources) Falls Creek will honor background checks for 18 months from the date of the check.

Here are three options for background check providers.

### SHIELD CHECKS

[www.shieldscreening.com](http://www.shieldscreening.com)

800-260-373

### PRAESIDIUM CHECKS

<http://www.praesidiuminc.com/bgco.php>

817-801-7773

### TRAK-1 CHECKS

<https://www.trak-1.com>

800-600-8999

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade). Students are required to attend both the Morning Tabernacle Experience and the Evening Tabernacle Experience each day. 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.

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.

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.

Believing that modesty extends beyond the dress code, Falls Creek asks that students refrain from PDA (Public Displays of Affection). Church sponsors should be diligent to communicate this guideline to their students.

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.

Pets/animals (other than service dogs), fireworks, rock throwing, water fighting, laser pointers and shaving cream fights are prohibited on the grounds. Masks or any other disguise over the face cannot be worn by anyone outside of their cabin. For the safety of all guests, skates, rollerblades and skateboards are permitted only in the SwiftSkate area and only at designated times. All cycles (uni-, bi-, or tri-) are prohibited on the grounds. Violation of this policy could result in confiscation of equipment. No wading or swimming is allowed in the creeks or lake unless there is a Falls Creek lifeguard present. No swimming/wading pools are allowed at cabins.

All guests are required to show proof of registration or ID to enter or re-enter the conference center grounds. Day guests should leave grounds by midnight. Courtesy Crew will be on duty 24-hours per day. Courtesy Crew, when called upon, will assist the adult leadership of any cabin in dealing with discipline problems that may arise. Courtesy Crew is authorized to enforce the code of conduct and policies of the conference center.

Unnecessary and careless traffic is prohibited on Falls Creek grounds. Only conference center operated golf carts, utility carts, or low speed vehicles (LSVs) are permitted. Delivery trucks are not permitted during summer camp weeks except to supply conference center-owned concessions. Motorcycles may only drive to and from the gate to their cabin or meeting place. Recreation vehicles for living or sleeping purposes are permitted only in designated areas and must register in advance with the Falls Creek Office. All passengers must be seated in the vehicle according to its designated capacity—no passengers are allowed in pickup beds or in the back of vehicles with hatch doors raised.

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 humiliate 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 urged to see that only clothing which meets the policies and regulations of the conference center is brought to Falls Creek.

**CAMPERS: Please bring clothing to Falls Creek which fully complies with the following regulations:**

### MODESTY

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.

### GENERAL APPROPRIATENESS

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.

### DRESSES AND SHORTS

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. All apparel must cover the shoulder. Dresses must include accessory wear under or over any straps that do not cover the shoulder.

### SHIRTS AND SHOES

**Tank tops are not allowed at Falls Creek.** Sleeveless shirts are acceptable, but must go from the neck to the shoulder seam and not be split down the side. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times outside cabins, except while swimming.

### 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.



# Falls Creek 2013 Adult Release and Waiver of Claims Form

Adult Name:

Host Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Cabin: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

In Emergency Notify: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell or Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ College Attending This Fall (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you have any known allergies or are you unable to take any medication? **Yes No** (Please circle one.) If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you presently take any medications regularly? **Yes No** (Please circle one.)  
If yes, what medications? \_\_\_\_\_ For what reason? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please List any other medical condition(s) that would be helpful to know: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Date of last tetanus immunization: \_\_\_\_\_

5. The above named adult 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): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does your insurance company require notification prior to emergency health care at a hospital? **Yes No** (Please circle one.)

If yes, Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**It is your responsibility to obtain insurance permission for treatment.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ will be attending Falls Creek during the summer session, 2013. Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center is managed and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma ("BGCO"). In the event that I 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 me as is recommended or suggested by a physician, nurse, surgeon or other health care professional.

If such emergency care is provided, I understand that my health insurance information will be given to the health care professional and that any expenses not covered by my 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.

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 nor 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 participation in or observation of such recreational activity.

Furthermore, in consideration of being allowed to attend Falls Creek camp, I 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 may have against the Host Church, the BGCO, or their agents or employees as a result of injury to me, including, but not limited to: (1) injuries arising from 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 me.

I understand that my 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 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 belongings while at Falls Creek.

I have read and agree to the Falls Creek Code of Conduct and Dress Code and will abide by them.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Must be 18 years old or older to sign this form. Every adult attending Falls Creek must complete this Release Form and turn it in on the first day of camp during registration.

Church:

# 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade This Fall: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Twitter: @ \_\_\_\_\_

What activities are you involved in at school? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us briefly about your family: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite snack? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite movie? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite sport? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your family usually attend church?  Yes  No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?  Yes  No  Unsure

If you are a Christian, when did you accept Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were you baptized after you accepted Christ?  Yes  No

If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which of these have you done in the past week: (Check each one that applies.)

Read the Bible  Prayed five minutes a day  Memorized a verse of the Bible

Have you ever attended Falls Creek?  Yes  No

Why do you want to go to Falls Creek? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When the adults from our church pray for you, what would you like them to pray for during the week you are at Falls Creek?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 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 middle school, 10:05 – 11:15 a.m. for high 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.

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.



## **THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- 1)** You may find evening devotional discussion question overviews online at [skopos.org](http://skopos.org). This might help your group leaders zero in on the material they will be responsible for.
- 2)** Look for key points in each lesson where students or adults can contribute with teaching a segment, leading a game, reading scripture, or providing a testimony.
- 3)** What goes on in your cabin, with your group, is vital to the success of your camp and growth of your group. This cannot be overstated. Plan well, and have fun!

# TUESDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY

## OUR PREDICAMENT

### Big Question: Where do you stand?

#### Main Idea(s):

You were created by God to do His will and enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. Our sin separates us from God and interferes with that fellowship. That separation and/or interference leaves an empty space in our hearts and creates a spiritual thirst in us that can only be satisfied by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Helps available online for today's lesson (These items are listed in blue text):

"The Exam Room" self-guided study sheet

Link to Mayo Clinic article on dehydration

Condensed Mayo Clinic document to print

"GARDEN OF EDEN" Sign

"WILDERNESS" Sign

"PEACE", "CONTENTMENT", "JOY", "SATISFACTION", "PURPOSE", "FULFILLMENT", "LOVE", "BEAUTY", "PURITY", "FREEDOM" Signs

"REGRET", "CONFUSION", "PAIN", "FRUSTRATION", "WORRY", "DOUBT", "FEAR", "GUILT", "ANGER" Signs

#### Materials/Prep Needed:

Decorate half of your cabin like the Garden of Eden and the other half like the Wilderness.

(Alternative: Hang a sign that says "Garden of Eden" on one side of the room and a sign that says "Wilderness" on the other side of the room).

#### Suggestions for Eden:

Greenery\* (Trees, vines, shrubbery)

Sky\*

Flowers\*

Water feature of some kind\*

Animals

Fruit/Food

Rain Forest sound effects (noise-makers are available at Walgreens, Walmart, etc.)

#### Suggestions for Wilderness:

Gray sky\*

Sand/dirt\*

Bare branches, tumbleweeds

Desert creatures

No visible water source

#### \*These items can be easily created with butcher paper if no three-dimensional props are available.

Tape, pencils, and pens

Blank paper

Enough copies of "The Exam Room" and article about dehydration (if desired) for every student to have his/her own.

#### Tabernacle review:

When students come in, have them sit down as a group and respond briefly to the following questions.

- What stood out to you during the morning tabernacle time?
- How were you challenged personally? How will you respond?
- How do we need to respond to this morning's message as a youth ministry?

# PART ONE

1. Ask Students to get into their Family Groups and discuss the following questions. Tell them to be back ready to discuss in five to ten minutes.

- Why do you think that God made people? What is our purpose here on earth?
- Why do you think that God made you, specifically? What is your purpose? Are you fulfilling that purpose? Explain.

When your students come back together, ask the first family group question to your large group and let a representative from each family group share the answers they came up with.

2. Ask students to stand and read the following passages to your group. You can pre-assign these if you would like.

**Genesis 2:4-7**

**Genesis 2:8-9**

**Genesis 2:15-17**

**Genesis 2:18-20**

**Genesis 2:21-25**

## **Explain:**

God created mankind in His own image to do His will and enjoy fellowship with him. The Garden of Eden was a special place for God and mankind to share. As long as Adam and Eve obeyed God, they could stay in the Garden of Eden, enjoying intimate fellowship with God. It was the perfect arrangement.

## **Activity:**

Give each student a piece of paper and a marker. Ask them to imagine what it must have been like to be Adam or Eve in the Garden of Eden before they disobeyed God. Ask them to write one or two words describing what it must have been like on their piece of paper and tape it to the wall on the "Eden" side of the room. (Alternative: You could take student answers out loud and write them yourself.) Prepare the following words ahead of time for your workers to tape up alongside your students' papers: peace, contentment, joy, satisfaction, purpose, fulfillment, love, beauty, purity, freedom.

3. Ask students to stand and read the following passages to your group.

**Genesis 3:1-4**

**Genesis 3:6-7**

**Genesis 3:8-13**

## **Explain:**

Even though the Serpent tricked Eve, twisting God's words to manipulate her, Adam and Eve still made the decision to disobey God. Disobedience to God is sin. It prevents intimacy with God and interrupts fellowship with Him.

God is perfect and cannot have fellowship with imperfection. God is also fair and just and cannot ignore sin. Adam and Eve chose sin over their relationship with God. Because God cannot deny His own nature, He allowed Adam and Eve to experience the consequences of their sin.

Ask students to stand and read the following passages to your group.

**Genesis 3:16-19**

**Genesis 3:20-24**

## **Explain:**

God was actually demonstrating mercy in banishing Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve sinned, they separated themselves from God. If they had been allowed to stay in the Garden of Eden and eat from the Tree of Life as well, they would have lived forever in that separation. Because God made them leave, they and all the people that came after them were given a chance to be redeemed or restored into intimate fellowship with God, first through the sacrificial system of the Old Testament and, eventually, through the death, burial, and resurrection of God's own Son Jesus Christ.

## **Activity:**

Give students a piece of paper and a marker. Ask them to imagine what it must have been like for Adam and Eve to have to leave the Garden of Eden and live in the Wilderness. Remind students to think about how Adam's and Eve's relationship with God had changed. Have them write one or two words describing what it must have been like on their piece of paper and tape it to the wall on the "Wilderness" side of the room. (Alternative: You could take student answers out loud and write the answers yourself.) Prepare the following words ahead of time for your workers to tape up alongside your students' papers: regret, confusion, pain, frustration, worry, doubt, fear, guilt, anger.

4. Ask Students to get into their Family Groups and discuss the following questions. Tell them to be back in ten minutes.

- What did Adam and Eve gain by disobeying God? Was it worth the price they paid?
- When have you disobeyed God? Give a specific instance. What did you hope to gain? Was it worth it?
- How does sin affect your relationship with God? Is the pay-off worth it?

# PART TWO

5. When students return, give each of them a copy of "The Exam Room" self-guided study sheet. If you have chosen to print copies of the Mayo Clinic article on dehydration, give them that as well. Tell them to get alone with this guide, the article, a pencil/pen, and a Bible. Tell them to be back in ten to fifteen minutes.

## The Exam Room

Read the provided article on dehydration or look up <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/dehydration/DS00561> on your mobile device (use the blue menu on the left side of the page to explore the topic of dehydration). Play the part of "medical professional" for a minute, and see if you can answer the following questions. Time is short. We need answers. People are counting on you!


**What is dehydration?**

**What are the symptoms of dehydration?**

**What causes dehydration?**

**How do you treat dehydration?**

**What would you prescribe for a patient with symptoms of dehydration? Fill out the script below.:**

FCEA# 000-000-000		LIC# 2013
TEL (000)555-6161		4222 Clinton Way
"Thirstscription"		
Name _____		Date <u>Just for Today</u>
<b>THIRST</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Substitutions	Repeat <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signature _____
	1   2   3   4   5   Daily	

Now, read the Bible verses on the following page and answer the questions that go with them.

### Dehydration: Defined

*"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."* Isaiah 59:2

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"* Psalm 42:1-2

According to the verses above, what is spiritual dehydration?

### Dehydration: Symptoms

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."* 1 John 2:15-16

*"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry...But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other..."* Colossians 3:5, 8-9a

According to the verses above, what are some symptoms of spiritual dehydration?

**Dehydration: Causes**

*"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people..."*

Romans 5:12

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

According to the verses above, what causes spiritual dehydration?


**Dehydration: Treatment**

"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Romans 10:9-10

*"Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'" John 4:13-14*

**According to the verses above, what is the cure for spiritual dehydration?**

What would you prescribe for someone with symptoms of spiritual dehydration? Fill out the script below.

FCEA# 000-000-000		LIC# 2013
TEL (000)555-6161	<b>"Thirstscription"</b>	4222 Clinton Way
Name _____		Date <u>Just for Today</u>
<b>THIRST</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Substitutions	Repeat <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signature _____
	1   2   3   4   5   Daily	

6. When students return, go over their answers to the second half of "The Exam Room" to be sure that they understand the critical truths found in the Bible verses they read.

**Explain:**

When Adam and Eve chose to sin, sin became a part of mankind. The tendency to sin was passed down through their children to all generations. This sin condition is hereditary, just as eye color, height, and bone structure are hereditary. No matter how hard a person tries not to, they will sin (Rom 3:23). Because of sin, they are separated from God and can't get back to Him on their own. They are in a kind of wilderness. The intimate fellowship with God that they were created for is missing, and, deep down, their heart knows it. It's spiritually dehydrated, and, even before a person knows what's missing, their heart longs to fill its empty space and be whole. It's thirsty!

Jesus, God's only Son, who was fully man (Heb 2:17) and fully God (Phil 2:6) at the same time, was the only man to live on this earth and remain sinless, even though He was tempted with everything we are tempted with (Heb 4:17). Because He was sinless, He didn't deserve to be punished. His relationship with God was fine. When He died on the cross, He was paying the price for your sin (1 John 2:2) and fixing your relationship with God, not His own (Rom 5:8). When you accept Jesus into your heart, you become a Christian and can rest knowing that you will go to Heaven when you die. Your heart becomes Eden again. As long as you do what God says and live to please Him, God keeps quenching your heart's thirst with Jesus, the Living Water.

\*\*\*personal testimony of salvation here\*\*\*

**Explain (cont.):**

Once you are saved by accepting Jesus' gift, you are always saved (John 10:29). The promise of Heaven can never be taken from you, but you will continue to struggle with that old sin nature, to some degree, as long as you are alive (Rom 7:15). The more you learn to listen to the Holy Spirit that comes to live in your heart when you become a Christian (Eph 1:13) and learn to obey God, the easier it will become to fight your tendency to sin, but sometimes, you will mess up.

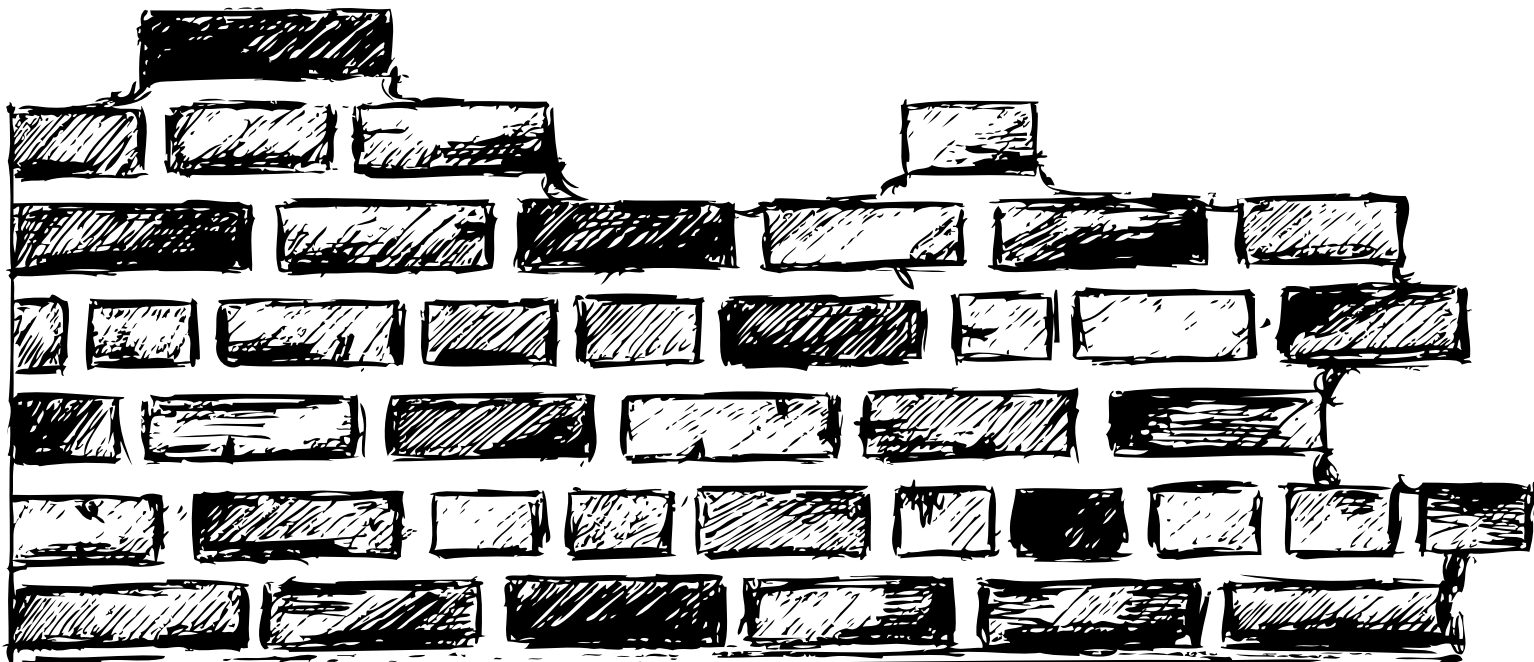
When that happens, your heart will get thirsty again. The good news is that Jesus, the Living Water, is always ready to forgive and quench that thirst so you can start fresh (1 John 1:9). You may hear Christians who talk about being thirsty, too. Don't be confused by that. They say that because once you've "tasted" the Living Water, you want more. He's that good (Psalm 34:8)!

\*\*\*optional personal testimony of spiritual restoration or "rededication"\*\*\*

**Closing Activity:**

Ask everyone to get alone, bow their heads, and close their eyes. Ask them to think about these questions as you talk through them. Use this as an invitation time if you feel led to do so.

- Where does your heart live right now? Do you live in Eden or the Wilderness?
- What is the condition of your heart? Are you spiritually dehydrated or are you soaking up the Living Water of Jesus?
- Have you ever accepted Jesus' gift of salvation? If you have accepted that gift, are you following Him?





# WEDNESDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY

## OUR OPTIONS

### Big Question: What are your choices?

#### Main Idea(s):

The Bible says that every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17). When we use those gifts the way God intended, they become tools for drawing us closer to God and furthering His Kingdom. When we use them selfishly, we sin. Every gift that God gives brings a certain level of happiness and pleasure, but none can quench a spiritual thirst but Jesus.

#### Helps available online for today's lesson:

Images and self-guided questions for activity in Part Two.

"DO NOT DRINK!" or "CONTAMINATED!" Signs

"RELIGION", "RELATIONSHIPS", "PLEASURE", "MONEY", "SELF-IMPROVEMENT", "FAME", "WORK", "JESUS" Signs and Slides

John 4: 13-14 Slide

#### Materials/Prep Needed:

Make big signs to hang around the room. Space them evenly. On each, write the name of a popular beverage among teenagers. Here are some suggestions:

**Mountain Dew**

**Coke**

**Pepsi**

**Dr. Pepper**

**Root Beer**

**Cream Soda**

**Coffee**

**Green Tea**

**Izzies**

**Yoohoo**

**Milk/Chocolate milk**

**Gatorade**

**Red Diamond Tea**

**Water**

**Orange Juice**

**Hot Chocolate**

Under each sign, set out enough of that beverage for every student in your cabin to have a drink of it should they all choose the same beverage during the activity. Three or four choices should be enough.

Have enough cups on hand for everyone to pour themselves a drink.

Provide snacks for your students that will make them thirsty. Here are some suggestions:

**Pretzels**

**Popcorn**

**Doritos**

**Cheetoes**

**Pickles**

**Peanut Butter**

**Cookies (Oreos)**

**Candy (Laffy Taffy, Reeses, Jolly Ranchers)**

**French Fries**

**Icing**

**Cotton Candy**

Images/symbols for activity in Part Two with sets of self-guided questions that go with each.

#### Tabernacle review:

When students come in, have them sit down as a group and respond briefly to the following questions.

- What stood out to you during the morning tabernacle time?
- How were you challenged personally? How will you respond?
- How do we need to respond to this morning's message as a youth ministry?

1. While students are at the tabernacle, go to great lengths to block all water sources from your students when they return. Put plastic bags over the water fountains, lock the ice chest, etc. Put signs on them that say "DO NOT DRINK!" or "CONTAMINATED!" The bigger deal you make of this, the thirstier they will be for the activity below.

## Activity:

Gather students into the center of the room. Ask them to raise their hands if they see their favorite drink at one of the drink stations. Tell them to go stand by their favorite of the ones offered, but tell them not to drink or touch it.

Ask students which drink they would choose if it were all they could drink for a week. Tell them to go stand by that choice, but tell them not to drink or touch it.

Give each student a large amount of a snack to make them thirsty. Let them eat it, but don't let them get a drink. As they eat, describe what it feels like to be thirsty. Talk about times that you have been extremely thirsty. You may want to show a movie clip where someone is extremely thirsty. Talk about how good it feels to drink a cold beverage when you are thirsty. For example, talk about how good cold milk feels and tastes with thick, rich chocolate cake or peanut butter cookies. You may want to show commercials where people take a drink of something cold, like Coke or Gatorade commercials.

When they admit that they are good and thirsty, ask them to go to the drink that they most want to drink in that moment. Divide the beverage evenly amongst the students in each station and let them drink what they chose. Make sure they only go to one station.

(Alternative: If you can't provide the drinks and snacks, you can simply talk them through this exercise, asking what they prefer to drink, what they drink when they are very thirsty, what they would drink if that were all they could drink for a week, etc.)

After everyone has had their fill, hold up a 2 Liter full of water. Point out that water is what the human body actually needs. Show them that this is how much water the human body needs per day just to stay hydrated.

2. Ask Students to get into their Family Groups and discuss the following questions. Tell them to be back in fifteen minutes.

- Of the drinks offered, which is your favorite?
- Which drink did you go to for satisfaction in the moment that your mouth was really dry? Why?
- What drink does our body need to survive? Do you drink as much of it as you should? How does it feel to be completely hydrated? Do you know?
- Are all of the other drinks bad? Are some better for you than others? As a group, rank them from best to worst for your health, not by preference. As you consider each beverage, think about what would happen to your body if you drank 64 ounces of it or could only drink that one beverage for a week.



THIRST

# PART TWO

**3.** While students are in family groups, set up stations around the room. At each station set up an image or symbol of the following gifts and tools that God has given us for our good and His glory. Print enough copies of each set of self-guided questions for each student to take one as they move independently around the room. Place each set next to its corresponding image or symbol. (Alternative: Project each description up on your large screen or read them out loud and give them a chance to answer the questions silently.)

## 1. Religion

A religion is a set of rituals and observances upheld by a group of people who share the same beliefs about the supernatural. It includes a moral code that governs the actions of those who adhere to it. Religion, in and of itself, is a kind of spiritual “to do” list.

Early on, God told people how and where He wanted to be worshipped, laying out in great detail the sacrifices and ordinances He required. Jesus’ coming changed that, and He set out new ordinances for us to observe, such as baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We are also told to continue to meet together (Heb 10:25), which we usually do on Sunday and Wednesday. Used correctly, religion can enhance and guide personal worship of God the Father.

### When it’s good:

Religion is a good thing when people use it to draw closer to the One True God.

### When it’s bad:

Religion becomes a bad thing when it brings glory to any person or “god” other than the One True God, when people practice it to feel better about themselves, when people substitute it for a real and meaningful relationship with God, when people try to earn their salvation by practicing it, and/or when people use it as an excuse for their bad behavior toward others.

### To think about:

- How does being involved in church help you in your relationship with God?
- What is the difference between practicing religion (some call it “doing church”) and worshipping God? Which one can you do without knowing Jesus at all?
- Why would a person want to substitute religion for worship? Do you think people always know when they are doing it?
- Why do you participate in church activities? Are you “doing church” or pursuing the things of God?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

## 2. Relationships

A relationship is a connection between two individuals. It can be a romantic connection between two people, but it doesn’t have to be. It can also be a connection between family members, people who work toward a common goal, members of the same church, friends, etc. God gave you the ability to connect with others.

### When they are good:

Relationships are good when they bring both people closer to God.

### When they are bad:

Relationships are bad when they pull either person away from God, when either person values the relationship above their relationship with God, and/or when either person is being hurt in any way by the relationship.

### To think about:

- Think about the relationships in your life. Which ones are really good for you?
- Which ones are bad for you? Is there anything you can do about that?
- Are you good for others or bad for them?
- Why is it so easy to let relationships with people get in the way of our relationship with God?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

## 3. Pleasure

God gave you the ability to feel pleasure, and He gave you many things to enjoy and praise Him for. He gave you taste buds so that you could enjoy delicious food, eyes so that you could appreciate the beauty of nature, ears so that you could experience music, a sense of touch so that you could enjoy holding the ones you love, etc. Pleasure is an exciting but temporary experience.

### When it’s good:

Pleasure is good when the person experiencing it receives it within the boundaries of God’s will as a gift from God, giving Him the glory for it.

**When it's bad:**

Pleasure is bad when it is derived from anything that is a perversion of what God intends or is in direct violation of God's will. It is also wrong to seek pleasure over intimacy with God.

**To think about:**

- Think about the things you enjoy through your five senses, sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing. What kind of pleasure do you seek most often?
- Is the pleasure that you enjoy God-honoring and pure, or have you accepted a perversion of what God intended?
- What do you crave more, pleasure or intimacy with God? Into which one do you put more effort?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

**4. Money**

Money is a means to an end, a way to pay for the things that you want and need. Because the things that you want and need bring pleasure, it's easy to think of money as being your provider when, in reality, God is the One who provides every good thing (James 1:17), even when you use your money to buy it.

**When it's good:**

Money is good when it is earned in accordance with God's will and is used to further the Kingdom of God.

**When it's bad:**

Money is bad when people do corrupt things to get it, use it to manipulate others, begin to love it, use it for things that God doesn't approve of, or seek it instead of seeking God.

**To think about:**

- What happens to people who love money?
- How often do you think about and wish for money and the things it could get you? How does that compare to how often you think about God and what He wants for you?
- How hard do you work for the money you get? How much effort do you put into your relationship with God?
- When you have money, do you use it in a way that honors God?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

**5. Self-improvement**

God created you with great skill, and He expects you to take care of what He's given you. He wants you to stay healthy and sharpen your skills. He wants you to do everything to the best of your ability, but most of all, He wants you to become more like Jesus and fulfill His purpose for your life.

**When it's good:**

Self-improvement is good when a person relies on God to shape them, putting forth as much effort as God leads them to, with His glory in mind.

**When it's bad:**

Self-improvement is bad when it is about becoming the best "you" you can be. That is called individualism, and it is a form of idol worship. God wants you to become the best reflection of Jesus you can be.

**To think about:**

- Are you taking good care of what God has given you, your mind, your body, and your spirit? Do you spend enough time taking that care? Do you spend too much?
- When people correct you, how do you respond? Do you seek or avoid spiritual accountability?
- Are you more interested in becoming the best "you" you can be or in becoming more like Jesus?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

**6. Fame**

Fame is being recognized by people. It is a form of acceptance and feels like approval, which is why so many people seek it. People become famous for both admirable and shameful reasons. Fame in and of itself is superficial and temporary.

**When it's good:**

Fame is good when it is gotten for a positive reason, when the person getting attention uses it to further God's Kingdom, and when the person getting attention directs the focus of others toward God, giving Him all the glory.

**When it's bad:**

Fame is bad when it is gotten for a negative reason, when a person begins to seek the approval of men over God's acceptance and approval, when the person getting attention keeps it for him or herself, and/or when the person getting attention takes credit for what God has done.

**To think about:**

- How much time do you spend worrying about what people think of you? How hard do you work to please people?
- Are you more concerned about what God think of you or what others think of you?
- When you do get attention, do you share it and use it to influence others for God, or do you soak it up and become prideful?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

**7. Work**

Contrary to popular belief, the ability to work is a blessing from God. Adam worked the land before he ever left Eden. In fact, God didn't create ground vegetation until He created Adam to care for it. It is rewarding to fulfill a purpose, to set goals and reach them, and to reap the benefits of your labor.

**When it's good:**

Work is good when the person working does so with a good attitude as an act of worship to God, thanking Him for the ability to work.

**When it's bad:**

Work is bad when the person working does so for their own glory, becomes overly competitive and prideful, or allows work to take over their life, putting achievement over their relationship with God and others.

**To think about:**

- Do you see work as a burden or a blessing?
- Does the way that you do your work bring honor to God or misrepresent Him?
- Do you work too hard, sacrificing your relationship with God and others, or do you have a good balance in your life?
- Do you care more about impressing others and feeling good about yourself or pleasing God with your work?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

**8. Jesus**

Jesus is the greatest gift that God has ever given. He is perfect. He created all things (John 1:3) for His own glory and holds the world together (Acts 17:28). He wants a relationship with you even though you have nothing to offer Him, and He lets you find Him when you look for Him (Jer 29:13). He quenches our spiritual thirst in a supernatural way, saturating our very being with His love and light.

**When He's good: All the time!****When He's bad: He's never bad!****To think about:**

- When you are feeling thirsty, is Jesus your first choice, or do you try other things first? Why is that?
- Have you ever let Jesus quench your spiritual thirst? What was that like? Has he ever let you down or been less than you expected?
- Why would Jesus refer to Himself as the "Living Water"?
- Why do you suppose people return to things that don't satisfy their thirst even after experiencing Jesus for themselves? Do you do that?
- Does anything need to change? If so, what?

4. Project the Bible passage below onto your large screen and leave it up for the duration of this activity. (Alternative: Read it out loud.)

**"Jesus answered and said unto her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give Him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.'"**

**John 4:13-14**

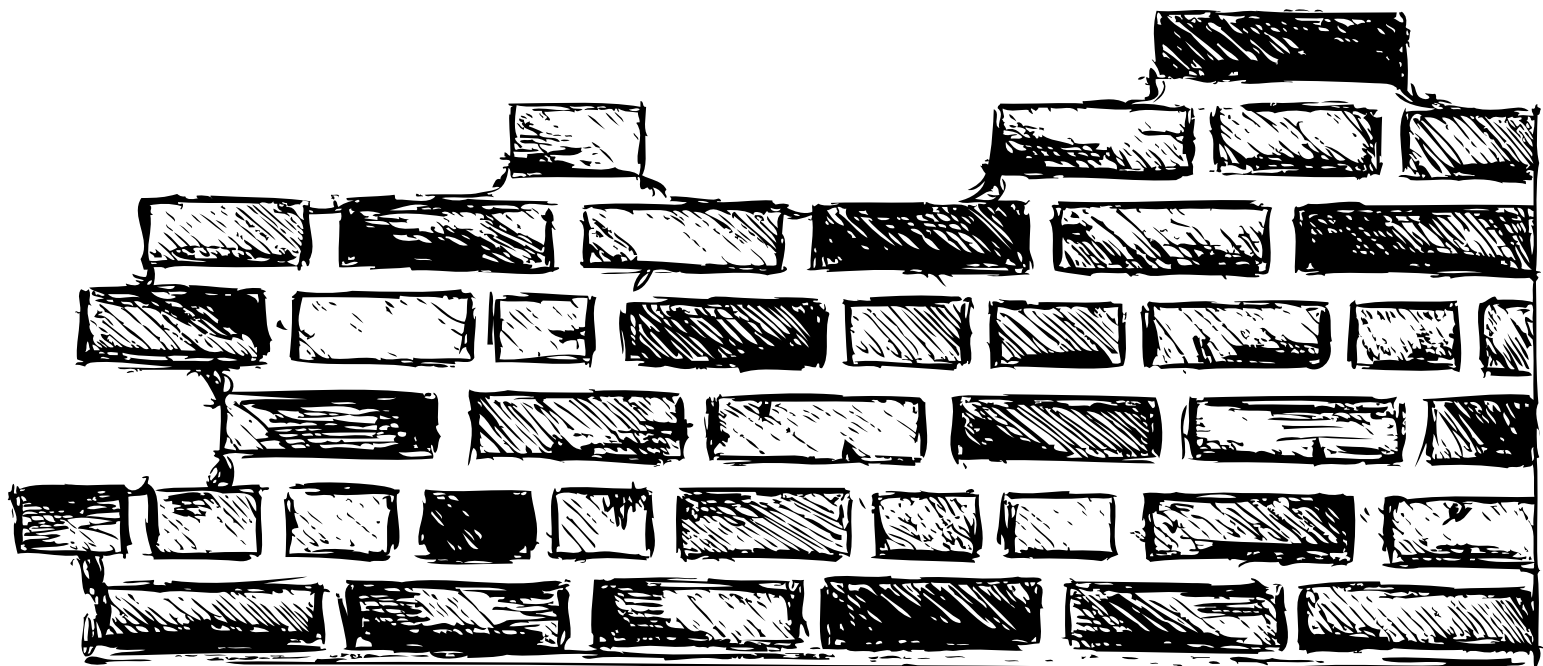
**Discuss:**

The Bible says that every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17). When we use those gifts the way God intended, they become tools for drawing us closer to God and furthering His Kingdom. When we use them selfishly, we sin. Every gift that God gives brings a certain level of happiness and pleasure, but none can quench a spiritual thirst but Jesus.

**Activity:**

Tell students that they will find at each station an image or symbol that represents one of the many gifts that God has given us for our good and His glory (Rom 8:28). Make sure that they know this is just a short list. Tell them to work their way quietly through the stations by themselves in no particular order, stopping at each one long enough to take a study guide, read it, and think through the questions carefully. Tell them to meet in their family groups when they are finished.

5. Family groups should wait until their entire group is finished with the self-guided activity before discussing the following questions.
- Of the God-given gifts that we just looked at, which are you most familiar with?
  - You may have noticed that all of them could be good or bad, depending on the way they were handled, except Jesus. Were you surprised to learn that any of them could be good? Which ones? Were you surprised to learn that any of them could be bad? Which ones?
  - Have you ever felt spiritually thirsty? Explain. Have you attempted to quench a spiritual thirst with something other than Jesus? What were the results? Were they lasting or temporary?
  - What's wrong with trying to quench a spiritual thirst with something other than Jesus? Does anything else measure up? Explain.
  - What would keep a person from turning to Jesus, the "Living Water," for their spiritual thirst? What happens to a person who never chooses Jesus?



## OUR CHOICE

### Big Question: What will you choose?

#### Main Idea(s):

People sin for a reason. They are either unaware of their sin, or they get something from it that they like and are willing to choose over pleasing God. No matter how fun or beneficial sin seems, it comes with consequences. For the believer, the consequences of sin are natural consequences, disrupted intimacy with God, and regret. For the non-believer, the consequences are natural consequences, continued confusion and darkness, and eternity spent in Hell. Besides being the only eternal solution to our eternal problem, Jesus meets our every need and satisfies our every desire. He quenches our thirst.

#### Helps available online for today's lesson:

"What's in It for Me?" and "Names of Jesus" self-guided study sheets

"Sin" Sign

"Jesus" Sign

#### Materials/Prep Needed:

Cover one wall with bright, blank butcher paper/poster boards. Write the word SIN in the center. Decorate it with balloons, streamers, silly string, anything party related that would naturally deflate, fall down, or disintegrate over time. Use primary colors. (Alternative: Just post the word SIN on one wall.)

Cover the other wall with white butcher paper/poster boards. Write the name JESUS in the center. Do not decorate it. Let His name stand alone. (Alternative: Just post the word JESUS on one wall.)

Provide enough markers for everyone to have their own.

Pencils/pens

Enough copies of the "Names of Jesus" and "What's in It for Me?" self-guided study sheets for every student to have one. Lay the "What's in It for Me?" sheets in front of the brightly colored wall and the "Names of Jesus" sheets in front of the Jesus wall.

Finger paint (if desired)

#### Tabernacle review:

When students come in, have them sit down as a group and respond briefly to the following questions.

- What stood out to you during the morning tabernacle time?
- How were you challenged personally? How will you respond?
- How do we need to respond to this morning's message as a youth ministry?



# PART ONE

1. Ask Students to get into their Family Groups and discuss the following questions. Tell them to be back ready to discuss in five to ten minutes.

- What is sin? Give examples.
- Why do people sin? What do they get out of it?
- What are the natural consequences of sin? Give examples.
- What are the eternal consequences of sin? How do you know?
- Is the pay-off for sin worth the consequences? Explain.

## **Discuss:**

Yesterday, we looked at just a few of the gifts that God has given us and learned that Jesus is ALWAYS the right choice, no matter the question, the need, or the options available. He is the only one who can quench spiritual thirst.

We talked about how the rest of the gifts can be good or bad, depending on how you handle them. Every gift given by God is intended for our good and His glory. Any time we pervert, or twist, one of those gifts into something other than what God intended for it to be, we sin. Any time we use one of them selfishly, we sin. Any time we put something other than God on the throne of our hearts, we sin. Actually, any time we disobey God in any way, we sin. We know this, but we continue to sin. Why?

2. Ask students to stand and read the following verses out loud.

**Proverbs 14:12**

**Psalms 19:12**

**Hebrews 11:25**

## **Explain:**

Sometimes, we just don't know that what we are doing is wrong, but most of the time we do. We engage in sin because we like what we get out of it. It seems, at first, to be the fix for our thirst. Even the Bible acknowledges the fact that sin can be fun for a short time.

## **Activity:**

Ask students the following questions, but don't take answers out loud.

- **What is so attractive about sin?**
- **What do people get out of it?**

3. Ask students to write the answers to both of these questions on the wall that looks like a party. Give them plenty of time to fill it up. You may want to add a few of your own. Here are some suggestions: feels good, it's exciting, helps me relax, gets me attention, etc. (Alternative: Take answers to these questions out loud and write them yourself.)

## **Discuss:**

Sin is not the party it seems to be at first. It cannot quench spiritual thirst. On the contrary, sin wrings out your soul and leaves you drier than ever. There are immediate, natural consequences of sin that no one really talks about.

## **Activity:**

Tell the students to go to each of the words that they wrote on the "party" wall and write down an immediate, natural consequence that follows that pay-off for sin. For instance, if someone wrote "feels good," they might write "feel guilty later" next to it. If they wrote "gets people attention," they might write something like "gets people a bad reputation" next to it. Only they know the sin they were talking about, so there are no right or wrong answers. (Alternative: Take answers to these questions out loud and write them yourself.)

## **Discuss:**

The natural consequences of sin are not fun, but the big problem with sin is that it interferes with your relationship with God both now and eternally.

## **Right now...**

When those who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus sin, it means continued confusion (1 Cor 2:14), spiritual darkness (John 3:19), slavery to sin (Romans 6:17), and a thirst that only intensifies (Eph 4:19).

When those who do have a personal relationship with Jesus sin, it means a painful interruption in the intimate fellowship with God they once enjoyed. Sin won't cause a person who has truly been saved to lose their salvation, but it will make it difficult for that person to communicate with God and will keep God from answering his or her prayers (Psalm 66:18).



### Later...

Those who never accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior will spend eternity separated from God in Hell (Romans 6:23, 2 Thessalonians 1:9).

Those who knew Jesus, but wasted time on earthly things, will have to watch as God takes a long, hard look at what they did with their life, sorting and judging their thoughts and deeds (1 Cor 3:11-15).

The problem with turning to anything other than Jesus, good or bad, with your spiritual thirst is that all other solutions are a temporary fix to an eternal problem. Sooner or later, we all die, and the things of this earth will fade away (Mark 13:31). The "party" will be over.

**4. Go to the party wall and pop the balloons, smear the silly string, and rip down the streamers. You can even finger paint over the words written there. You may want to ask some of your workers or students ahead of time to do this on cue.**

If we have spent our lives trying to squeeze happiness, satisfaction, and pleasure out of those temporary, earthly things, we will be left wanting in the end.

### Activity:

Tell each student to pick up a copy of the "What's in It for Me?" self-guided study sheet from in front of the destroyed party wall. Tell them to get alone to work their way through it.

### "What's in It for Me?"

Take a moment and answer the following questions honestly.

- What are your pet sins, the ones you keep going to over and over?
- Why do those particular sins have such a hold on you?
- What do you get out of those sins? Is it worth the price you pay?
- If you could turn back time, what would you change? What would you take back?

### Read the following verse:

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

- How does this verse make you feel? Write your response below.

**When you are finished, go to the Jesus wall and pick up a copy of the "Names of Jesus" self-guided study sheet from in front of the Jesus wall.**



# PART TWO

## Activity:

Direct each student to take a "Names of Jesus" self-guided study sheet. Tell them to get by themselves and work their way through it.

## Names of Jesus

Jesus is God, and He has been around since before time as we know it began (John 1:1). Over time, He has been called by many names. Some He gave Himself, and others were given to Him by people who experienced Him in a deeply personal way. All of His names have to do with some aspect of His character. Below, you will find a list of some of those names with Bible reference that tell where each name can be found in scripture.

<b>Son of God</b>	1 John 4:14	<b>Creator</b>	Colossians 1:16
<b>Savior of the World</b>	1 John 4:14	<b>Upholder of all things</b>	Hebrews 1:3
<b>God</b>	John 1:1	<b>Eternal Life</b>	1 John 5:20
<b>The Word</b>	John 1:1	<b>Wisdom</b>	Proverbs 8:12, 22
<b>The Way</b>	John 14:6	<b>Servant</b>	Philippians 2:7
<b>The Truth</b>	John 14:6	<b>The Christ</b>	Luke 2:11
<b>The Life</b>	John 14:6, 11:25	<b>Bread of Life</b>	John 6:35
<b>Redeemer</b>	Psalms 19:14	<b>Morning Star</b>	Revelation 2:28
<b>Friend</b>	John 15:15	<b>The Just</b>	1 Peter 3:8
<b>Healer</b>	Psalms 103:3	<b>High Priest</b>	Hebrews 5:6
<b>Comforter</b>	Isaiah 66:13	<b>Mediator</b>	1 Timothy 2:5
<b>Wonderful</b>	Isaiah 9:6	<b>Intercessor</b>	Hebrews 7:25
<b>Counselor</b>	Isaiah 9:6	<b>The Gift of God</b>	John 3:16
<b>Everlasting Father</b>	Isaiah 9:6	<b>Resurrection</b>	John 11:25
<b>Prince of Peace</b>	Isaiah 9:6	<b>Deliverer</b>	Romans 11:26
<b>Mighty God</b>	Isaiah 9:6	<b>Shield</b>	Psalms 84:9
<b>The Light</b>	John 12:35	<b>King of Kings</b>	Revelation 17:14
<b>Rock</b>	Psalms 31:2-3	<b>Strength to the poor and needy</b>	Isaiah 25:4
<b>Foundation</b>	1 Corinthians 3:11	<b>Refuge</b>	Isaiah 25:4
<b>God with Us</b>	Matthew 1:23	<b>Holy</b>	Isaiah 6:3
<b>The Lord</b>	Romans 10:13	<b>Leader</b>	Isaiah 55:4
<b>I Am</b>	John 18:5-6	<b>Ruler</b>	Micah 5:2
<b>Almighty, which is, which was, and which is to come</b>	Revelation 1:8		

1. Look through the list. Circle any names that stand out to you as being something or someone that you need in your life.
2. Spend some time looking up the Bible references next to the names that you circled. Write down anything that stands out to you in those verses.
3. Spend a few moments answering the following questions:
  - Is there anything that your heart needs or wants that Jesus can't be to you?
  - Have you ever accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? If so, when? If not, would you like to? If you would like to pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sin, come into your heart, and be your boss, go to a Christian friend, your youth minister, or one of the other adults and tell them. They can show you how.
  - If you have already accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, have you been letting Jesus be all that He can be to you, or are you feeling thirsty?
4. Look at the two papers in your hand. The "What's in It for Me?" sheet represents your sin. This paper represents Jesus. If you had to choose one right now, which one would you choose? Crumple the paper representing what you can do without.

5. Spend a few moments in prayer:

- Confess any sin that might be making you feel far away from God, asking God to reveal to you any sin that might not come to mind at first. Confess them as He brings them to your mind. Thank God for His forgiveness and commit to turn away from that sin.
- Thank Jesus for being everything that you need.
- Tell Jesus what you need Him to be for you. Be specific. Commit to let Him be that without turning to anything else to quench your spiritual thirst.

6. Go to the Jesus wall and write the names of Jesus that mean the most to you, even if someone else has already written them. If you feel led, write a prayer of thanksgiving and praise (compliments) to Jesus on His wall.

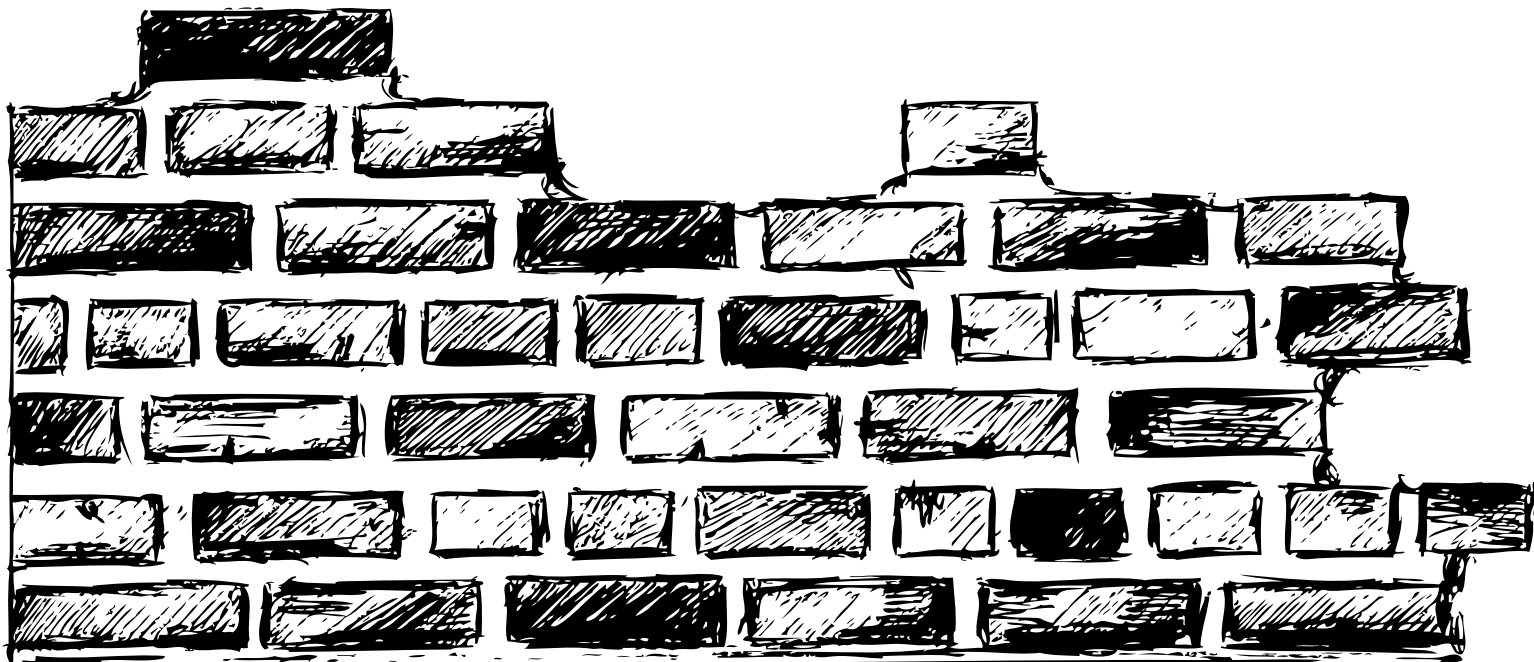
7. When you are finished, sit or kneel facing the wall. While everyone else is finishing, spend time in prayer or looking up other names on the list.

**Discuss (When students finish, they will all be sitting, kneeling in front of the Jesus wall):**

Someday, we will all kneel before the throne of God (Romans 14:11). The “party” of earth will be over and forgotten, and we will see our life on earth for the breath it was. Those who didn’t choose Jesus will wish they had, and those who did choose Him will fully understand what God has done for them through Jesus Christ (1 Cor 13:12).

On that day, we will not be rushed, but will worship the Lord as He deserves to be worshipped.

Play some worship music or lead your students in worship.



# FRIDAY IN-CABIN BIBLE STUDY

## THE RESULTS

### Big Question: What does the future hold?

#### Main Idea(s):

Whether or not we like to think about it, Heaven and Hell are real, and everyone will spend eternity in one of those two places. Hell is not for bad people, and Heaven is not for good people. Hell is for those who never accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and Heaven is for those who do. It is our job as believers to share the Truth of the Gospel so that others might be saved.

#### Helps available online for today's lesson:

"Heaven and Hell" and "Reality Check" self-guided study sheets  
"HELL" Sign

#### Materials/Prep Needed:

Leave the Jesus wall just as it was yesterday. If you want, you can add to it. You could set up a throne with a purple robe on it, use candelabras, etc.

On what used to be the party wall, hang plain, black paper.

(Alternative: If you don't have black paper to symbolize Hell, write the word HELL on white paper or just post the word HELL on one wall.)

Pencils/pens and tape

Enough copies of the "Heaven and Hell are for Real" and "Reality Check" self-guided study sheets for every student to have them.

A stack of 20 notecards for each student.

#### Tabernacle review:

When students come in, have them sit down as a group and respond briefly to the following questions.

- What stood out to you during the morning tabernacle time?
- How were you challenged personally? How will you respond?
- How do we need to respond to this morning's message as a youth ministry?



THIRST

1. Give each student a copy of the "Hell is Real" self-guided study sheet and a pen. Tell them to get alone and work through it.

## Activity:

### Heaven and Hell are Real

It really doesn't matter what you believe about Heaven and Hell. They are very real places, and death is just a fact of life. Whether or not we want to think about it, every day that we live takes us one step closer to eternity. Everyone is going to spend it one of two places, Heaven or Hell. Some people like to think that Hell is for bad people and Heaven is for good people, but that's not true. Heaven is for those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. Hell is for those who don't. Other people like to think that everyone goes to Heaven unless they are just really awful people. That's not true either. Heaven is not the default; Hell is. It takes the divine intervention of Jesus to rescue a person from that default.

1. Read the following verses and then write a description of Hell using what you just read.

*"And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell."* Matthew 18:9

*"But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Matthew 8:12

Thankfully, God did not leave mankind in sin, but through Jesus, made a way for everyone to be forgiven and become His sons and daughters once and for all. Those who have a personal relationship with Jesus have no reason to fear Hell. Read the following verses and write a few sentences explaining what you just read.

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

*"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8

*"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'"* 1 Corinthians 15: 54, 55

#### Answer the following questions:

- Does the thought of Hell scare you? Why or why not?
- How would the world be different if everyone understood what Hell was like and knew that it was very real? Is there anyone you would like to tell? What hope could you offer them?

2. Anyone who accepts Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and submits to His will for their lives can rest assured that they will spend eternity in Heaven.

Look up and read the following verses and describe in a few sentences what Heaven will be like.

Revelation 4:8-11

Revelation 21:1-4, 10-27

1 Corinthians 2:9

Not only do followers of Christ have Heaven to look forward to, but we get to enjoy the peace and joy of a personal relationship now. With the knowledge of Heaven and Hell comes great responsibility. Read the following verses and write down what you think God expects of you.

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* Luke 19:10

*"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."*

1 Corinthians 9:22

*"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"* Romans 10:14

#### Answer the following questions:

- Will you spend your eternity in Heaven? How do you know?
- Will your loved ones and the people you spend time with spend eternity in Heaven? How do you know?
- What is your responsibility to the people around you? Are you fulfilling your responsibility? Is there anything more that you could be doing?

# PART TWO

## Discuss:

So, whose job is it to see that those we come in contact with get rescued? To a certain degree, it's ours. Only God can draw a person to Himself, and only God can give a person the faith to be saved. The Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin, and Jesus does the rescuing. So, where do we fit in? We bring the message of the Gospel and then live lives of submission to God that demonstrate to the world His power to change and use anyone. God did not save us so that we could just hang out and wait for Heaven. He expects us to spend our time here inviting as many people as we can to come with us when we go. He expects us to be a fountain of the Living Water that is Jesus Christ.

2. When students return, give them each a "Reality Check" self-guided study sheet and a stack of 20 notecards. Tell them to get alone and work their way through it and to meet with their family group when they are finished.

## Activity:

### Reality Check

1. Write the names of twenty people you are close to or spend time with on the notecards you were given, one name per card. Think about the names you wrote down. Which ones will you spend eternity with? How do you know?

2. Sort through the names you wrote down. Make a stack of the names of people that you know have a personal relationship with Jesus, people whose testimony of salvation you have heard AND whose life demonstrates the presence of God.

Take that stack in your hands. Spend a few moments thanking God for sending Jesus to save those people and for giving them the faith to accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Thank Him that they have the peace of God in their hearts now and will spend eternity in Heaven. Ask God to use them to lead others to Jesus as well. Lay them aside.

3. Sort through the names you have left. Make two stacks. In one stack lay the names of people you think might have a personal relationship with Jesus, but whose testimony you have not heard personally. In the other stack, lay the names of people you feel pretty sure do not know Jesus. You are not judging these people; that's not your job. No one knows the heart of man but God. You are simply taking an educated guess so that you can develop a plan of action.

Take the stack of people who you think might already know Jesus in your hands. Thank God for sending Jesus to save those people. Thank Him for giving them the opportunity to be saved. Ask Him for the courage to find out whether or not they have a personal relationship with Him. Lay them aside.

Take the stack of people who you feel pretty sure do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Thank God for sending Jesus to save those people. Ask Him to give them the faith that they need to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ask God to give you the courage and opportunity to share the Gospel with them so that they can be saved. Lay them aside.

Pick up the stack of people who you know have been saved. Go and tape those names to the Jesus wall.

Pick up the rest of the names in your stack. Look at the black wall. What do you think it represents?

The Bible tells us that God doesn't want anyone to perish. The good news is that there is still time. There's no reason for any of those people to end up anywhere other than with Jesus.

4. Reflect for just a moment and answer the following questions:

- How did it feel to tape the first stack of names to the Jesus wall?
- How badly would you like to tape the rest of the names that you hold to that wall? What is the alternative?
- What role do you think God wants you to play in making sure that all the people you know will be in Heaven someday? What happens if you don't obey?

5. Take a few moments and come up with a plan. Put the names that you hold in the order that you plan to talk to them about Jesus. If any of them are at camp with you this week, put those on top and talk to them today. Ask them to share their personal testimony, or story, with you. They won't be offended. Chances are, someone will come to talk to you as well. You should both be happy that the other one cares enough to make sure you are saved. After that, put the names in the order that you will see them.

On each card, write anything that you want that particular person to know, anything that you think would make a difference to them and encourage them to ask Jesus into their hear, to come to faith in Jesus. It could be something you learned this week or something you already knew. Below that information, write the opening line of the future conversation about Jesus that you plan to have with that person. If you don't know, here are some suggestions:

- o **Can I tell you what I learned at camp?**
- o **Can I ask you a personal question? What do you think it means to be a Christian? Can I tell you what I believe?**
- o **Can I tell you about the best decision I ever made?**
- o **I've always just assumed that you were a Christian, but I care about you, so I want to make sure.**

When you are finished, go to your family group.

**3.** Ask Students to get into their Family Groups and discuss the following questions.

- What was difficult about that exercise?
- What was encouraging?
- What are you most excited/nervous about as you look ahead to the task in front of you?
- How, specifically, can we pray for you now and in the days ahead? Spend time praying for one another in whatever way works best for your group.
- Take turns telling the story of how you met Jesus with one another.



# CABIN WRAP UP & EVENING CABIN DEVOTIONAL

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. Use as much of this guide as you like to provide an evening devotional time for your group. 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)
- Dismiss to "Family Groups" to discuss/process the day
- Add a worship time, decision time, or other elements based on the traditions, size, and maturity of your group

**Note:** You might consider doing a team point competition throughout the week and award one prize for the winning team at the end of the week.



# MONDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

## LIVING WATER

### Prep Needs (Depending on Opening Option)

#### Option One

- buckets of equal size (x2 for each team)
- large sponge (x1 for each team)
- water (to fill one of the buckets)
- towels for safety or clean up
- prize for winning team

#### Option Two

- buckets of equal size (x2)
- large sponge (x1)
- water (to fill one of the buckets)
- towels for safety or clean up
- prize for winning “guesser” or team



### Interactive Opening (10 minutes)

#### Option One

Form relay teams. Set up two buckets of equal size in front of each team, one bucket at the starting line and one bucket straight ahead at the opposite side of the room. Fill the bucket at the opposite end of the room with water. To be fair, make sure that all teams have an equal amount of water in their distant bucket. You may want to cover each runway with towels or have workers standing by to sop up water so that students don't slip on the wet floor and get hurt.

Give each team one large sponge. Explain that the object of the game is to transfer the water from the distant bucket to the one nearest their team by sponge. Team members must take turns 1) running to the opposite bucket, 2) soaking up water with the sponge, 3) running back to the bucket at the starting line, and 4) squeezing the water out of the sponge into the starting line bucket. The first team to empty the far bucket AND squeeze the last bit of water into their starting line bucket wins.

#### Option Two

Set two buckets on a table in front of your group. Fill one with water and leave the other one empty. Hold up a large sponge for everyone to see. Let every student (or each team) guess how many times you will have to soak that sponge and empty it into the other bucket to transfer all of the water from one bucket to the other. Transfer the water, counting each time you wring out the sponge. The student, or team, with the closest guess wins a prize.

#### Discuss

This week, we will be talking a lot about water, being thirsty, and how to quench our thirst. God doesn't want any of us to feel dry and empty inside. If we let Him, He will satisfy our thirst, filling us up to overflowing with Living Water. What's Living Water? Let's jump in and find out together.

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

This week, we will be talking about Jesus, the “Living Water.” We will focus on John 4:13-14. These verses are taken from a story full of ordinary people just like us who were just minding their own business, living life as normal, and then ended up having an unexpected, life-changing experience with God in human form. Those who are new to this God stuff may find that a little hard to believe, but those who have a personal relationship with Jesus know to expect extraordinary things where He is concerned.

God has much to say to us through the story of the woman at the well, and we will study it more closely during your quiet time this week. For now, though, let's read through it together and see which character(s) you have the most in common with.

#### Read John 4:1-26

The **woman at the well** was looking for something more than a simple drink of water. She was somewhat familiar with the religion of her ancestors and Jewish teaching, understanding that it had something to do with her, but she didn't know Jesus yet. Her search for meaning and fulfillment had led her down a winding path of mistakes and restarts and left her without much to show for her efforts. Still, she was curious enough to ask questions and was open to what Jesus had to say, hoping that He was what she had been looking for.

**Read John 4:28-29, 39-42**

The **townspeople**, at first, knew even less about Jesus than the woman at the well, who had at least had the opportunity to ask questions and consider what Jesus had to say. They had no choice, at first, but to take the woman's word for whom Jesus was, but they were curious, curious enough to spend a few days with Jesus and see what His message had to do with them.

**Read John 4:27-38**

The **disciples** knew Jesus personally. They walked with Him on a daily basis and had begun to trust His wisdom to a certain degree. They loved Him very much, but they still had much to learn about their Master, His mission, and the role they were to play in His plan, sometimes missing the obvious Truths that Jesus wanted them to learn. Even so, they were willing to be taught and to follow wherever He would lead them.

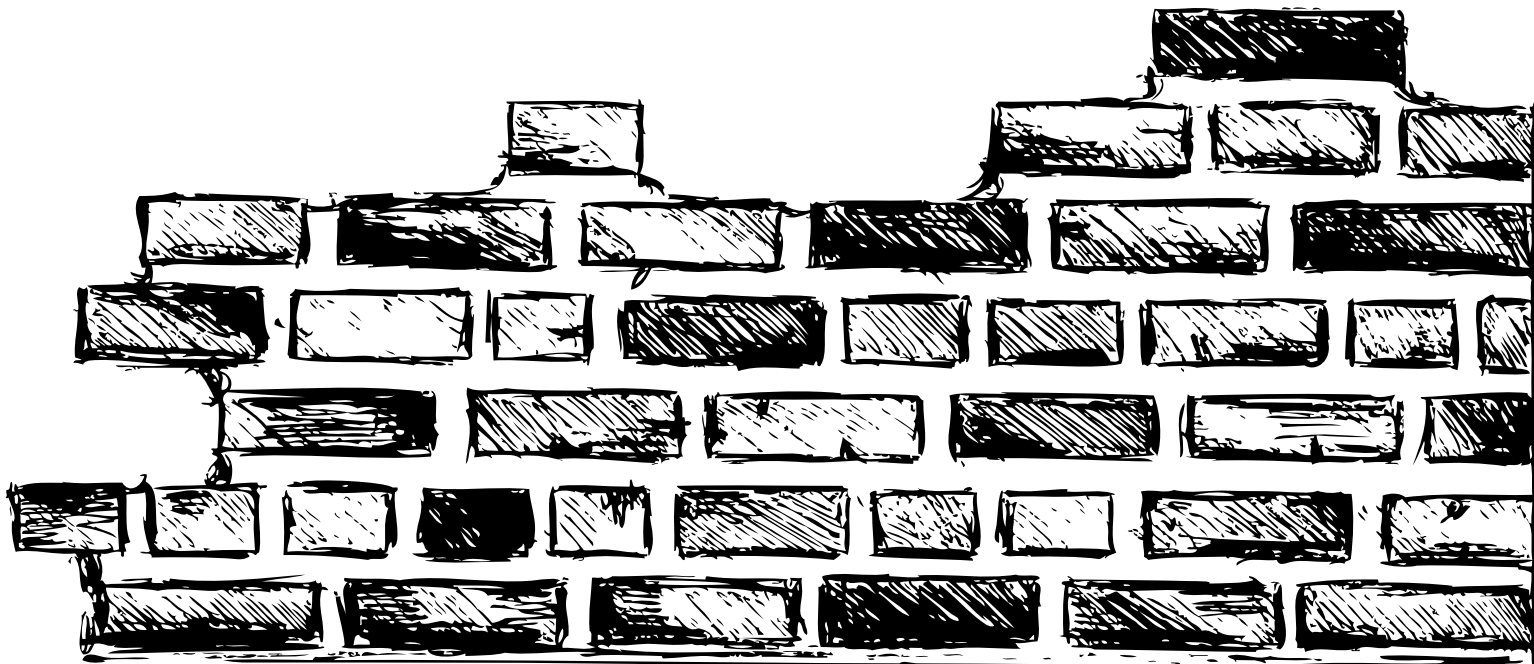
Where do you stand tonight? Are you like the woman at the well, seeking, curious, and somewhat knowledgeable, but still empty inside, in need of a Savior? Or, are you like the townspeople, unfamiliar with Jesus, but willing to spend a few days listening to what He has to say? Or, are you like the disciples, having a personal relationship with Jesus and loving Him deeply, but still trying to figure out what He wants for and from you?

Wherever you are coming from tonight, Jesus is waiting to have a conversation with you and give you the answers that you seek. This week, it is our prayer that you will open your heart to Him and listen to what He has to say. When He speaks, consider what His words have to do with you and don't be afraid to drink the "Living Water" He offers.

\*\*\*gospel presentation here\*\*\*

**Large or Small Group Discussion Questions (20-25)**

1. Give each member of your group a chance to share their name and tell a little bit about themselves.
2. Why did you come to camp this week? What are you hoping to get out of it? What are you most looking forward to?
3. Which of the characters in the story we read do you identify with the most? What do you have in common with them?
4. What do you think God wants you to get out of camp this week? Are you open to that?
5. How can we pray for you tonight? Spend time praying for each member of your group in whatever way works best for everyone.



# TUESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

## THE RIGHT FIT

### Prep Needs (Depending on Opening Choice)

#### Option One

- long table (1 or 2 depending on number of teams)
- blindfold (x1 for each team representative)
- toddler's shape-sorting bucket (x1 for each participant)
- prize for winning representative or team



#### Option Two

- actual basketball goal or "homemade" goal
- balls or various sizes (x2 or 3 for each participant)
- stop watch
- prize for winning representative or team

### Interactive Opening (10 minutes)

#### Option One

Divide your group into teams. Ask each team to select their smartest, fastest, most competitive team member to represent them in a race. Encourage the rest of each team to cheer for the person they selected. Position all representatives behind a long table in the front of the room so that they face the rest of your students. Blindfold them.

In front of each representative, place a toddler's shape-sorting bucket. Time the representatives as they put all of the shapes into the right holes without looking. The first representative to get all of the shapes into the right holes wins for his/her team.

#### Discussion for Option One:

Just as there is only one shape to fit each hole in the sorter, there is only one solution for the hole in our hearts. That solution is Jesus Christ. We can try to fill that space with other things, but we will never get full that way, just as we could never fill the container by trying to shove a triangle shape into a round hole. Trying to do so is not only pointless, but frustrating.

#### Option Two

Divide your group into teams. Ask each team to select their best ball player, whether their sport is basketball, football, baseball, softball, etc. Encourage the rest of each team to cheer for the person they selected. Set up a goal at one end of the room. You can use an actual basketball goal or cut a hole in a board or poster board and hold it up. Line representatives up behind a shooting line ten to fifteen feet away and have a rebounder ready to return balls to the shooters.

Provide each shooter with two or three balls to choose from, only one of which will actually fit through the goal. Tell them that they can use any ball they want as many times as they want. Let each shooter shoot for thirty seconds. The one with the most goals wins for his/her team.

#### Discussion for Option Two

Trying to make a goal with a ball that won't fit through the hole is foolish, just as trying to fill the God-shaped hole in your heart with anything other than Jesus is foolish. If you try it, you will become frustrated and discouraged over time.

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

As we discussed this morning, everyone sins (Romans 3:23). That sin separates us from God, leaving an emptiness in our hearts that only Jesus can fill. Trying to fill that emptiness with anything other than Jesus just doesn't work. In fact, it only intensifies our thirst for Him.

The Bible is full of stories about thirsty people. Let's look at two of them.

#### Read Luke 19:1-11

Zaccheus was thirsty. He tried to quench his thirst with money. When that wasn't enough, he began to cheat people to get even more money. Still, it wasn't enough. He was so thirsty that when he heard Jesus was passing through, he risked looking foolish in order to see if Jesus was the answer to the emptiness inside of Him. He was.

### **Read Luke 7:36-38, 44-48**

The woman in this passage is described as being sinful. The fact that she possessed the large bottle of perfume and the response of those around Jesus when she poured it out on Him suggests that she was a prostitute. At some point in her life, this woman turned to promiscuity. Whether or not it was her choice to begin with, she had embraced the lifestyle. Obviously, it was not enough because she came searching for Jesus. She found that He was the answer she was looking for.

These people were thirsty. They sought fulfillment in earthly things, but those things weren't enough. Are you thirsty? Are you looking for a way to quench the thirst in your heart? What do your actions say about the condition of your heart? Are you looking for more than you have found so far? If so, the good news is that Jesus is the answer you have been looking for.

\*\*\*gospel presentation here\*\*\*

Maybe you have already given your heart to Jesus. That's wonderful! Once we choose to let Jesus fill the emptiness in our hearts, we belong to Him forever (Romans 8:39). However, we will still make mistakes as long as we have to live in this sinful, corrupt world, and those mistakes will make us feel far from God, even though He never leaves us. Even the disciples made mistakes. Peter, the disciple who walked on water with Jesus' help, later denied that he ever knew Jesus.

Sin can cause serious static in our relationship with Jesus if we don't continually confess our sin and give our hearts to Him for cleaning (1 John 1:9), making it hard to communicate with Him (Psalm 66:18-19). When we let things go for too long, that static can cause us to doubt God and doubt whether we ever knew Jesus to start with (2 Peter 1:8-9), creating a more miserable thirst than we have ever known, for no true follower of Christ can find contentment living in sin (1 John 3:6). If we truly belong to Him, we will come back to Him every time (1 John 1:19), and the sooner, the better.

Peter was sorry for denying Jesus the moment he realized what he had done. In fact, he was miserable. He knew he couldn't continue to deny the One that had changed his life. How do we know? He returned immediately to the body of believers and became the father of the Church as we know it today. He never backed down again and remained an obedient follower of Christ until his death.

If you truly belong to Jesus, but have made mistakes that are causing static in your relationship with God, mistakes that might even be causing you to doubt, now is the time to fix it. Don't live in misery any longer. Confess your sin to Jesus and accept His forgiveness. Let Him clean your heart up, learn to see yourself as God sees you, and make a habit of surrendering your life to Him every day. God has great plans for you if you will return to Him and let Him quench your thirst through Jesus, the sooner, the better.

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

1. Which story stood out to you the most? Why?
2. Is your heart thirsty? Do your actions support your answer?
3. If you are thirsty, what is causing your thirst? What can you do about it?
4. Where do you usually turn when you are thirsty? How does that work for you? Is that the right place to turn?
5. Have you ever let Jesus quench your thirst? If so, tell about it. What were the circumstances? What was the result?
6. What would you be willing to give up in order to have your spiritual thirst quenched once and for all?
7. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for each member of your group in whatever way works best for you.

# WEDNESDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

## TO GET CLEAN

### Prep Needs (Depending on Opening Choice)

#### Option One

- long table (1 or 2 depending on number of teams)
- large bowls (1 for each team representative) of water
- water
- stained piece of white fabric (x1 for each participant, try to make the stains match in size and intensity),
- “cleaning” supplies. Here are some suggestions: Febreze, perfume, deodorant, white paint, and laundry soap.
- stain judge
- stop watch
- prize for the winning representative or team

#### Option Two

- long table (x1)
- large bowl of water
- piece of white fabric stained in two places
- laundry or dish soap and several or all of the following “stain-fighting” items: Febreze, perfume, deodorant, white paint, and laundry soap

### Interactive Opening (10 minutes)

#### Option One

Divide your group into teams. Ask each team to select a representative. Encourage the rest of each team to cheer for the person they selected. Position all representatives behind a long table in the front of the room so that they face the rest of your students. In front of each student, place a large bowl of water, a stained piece of white fabric (try to make the stains match in size and intensity), and a row of “cleaning” supplies. Here are some suggestions: Febreze, perfume, deodorant, white paint, and laundry soap.

Appoint a stain judge. Give students one minute to use the items in front of them to get the stain out of their piece of fabric. The representative that gets the stain out (as determined by the stain judge) first wins for their team. If no stain is completely removed by the end of one minute, the representative that has done the best stain removal job wins for their team.

#### Option Two

Set up a table in front of your group. On the table, set out a bowl of water, a piece of white fabric stained in two places, laundry or dish soap and several or all of the following “stain-fighting” items: Febreze, perfume, deodorant, white paint, and laundry soap.

Ask students which of the stain-fighting items will get out the stains. Try all of them except the laundry soap one by one on the same stain, acting confused as to why they aren’t working. Then, use the laundry soap and water to actually remove the other stain.

#### Discuss

When you want to get something clean, only soap will do. Other items might cover up the stain or make the fabric smell clean to someone who can’t see it, but they won’t fix the problem. Likewise, there are many ways to make yourself feel better for a little while and make others think you have it all together, but they can’t fix what is broken inside of you. Only Jesus can get your heart clean so that you can become what God wants you to be and live the rich, meaningful life He has planned for you.

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

In His own words, Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He performs other miracles as well, though, and we have to be careful not to get so caught up in these secondary, if more visible, displays of His power and compassion that we begin to think of Jesus as our own personal genie. Nothing could be further from the Truth. Jesus does not obey us. We obey Him. He is not a quick fix, nor does He want to be thought of in that way. He is not here to please or entertain us; He is here to redeem us.

#### Read Mark 1:21-28

In this story, an unclean spirit is the one to announce who Jesus is, and it makes Jesus angry. Jesus tells the spirit to be quiet and casts Him out. Jesus did not want or need the testimony of the unclean spirit, which would have made Him seem like a simple novelty or oddity on the same level as the demon, to the people around Him. It would have drawn a crowd that was there to see the freak show, so to speak, and would have hindered His mission to seek and save the lost.

**Read Luke 4:42-44**

In this story, Jesus is trying to refuel by spending time alone with the Father after ministering in a town. A crowd of people from the town come looking for Him. They wanted Him to do more miracles, but He insisted that He keep moving so that He could preach "the good news of the Kingdom of God" to other cities. It's not that He didn't want to minister to them. In that particular instance, He must have felt that He had performed enough miracles for them to believe in the One who sent Him. He needed to get back to His primary goal, seeking and saving the lost, so that others could have the chance to believe.

**Read Mark 1:40-45**

In this story, Jesus heals a man with leprosy. The man uses the phrase "if you are willing." Jesus is offended by this because it shows that the man doesn't have any idea who he is talking to. Jesus was so full of compassion, mercy, and love that He eventually went to the cross for us, but the man in this story doesn't care. He thinks he can manipulate Jesus into healing him. Jesus chooses to heal the man anyway because the man's leprosy has kept him outside of the city gates and prevented him from worshipping God properly. Jesus' primary objective in healing the man was to clear the way for the man to be made right with God, not to draw a crowd. Apparently, the man wasn't interested in getting things right with God. He disobeys Jesus' orders to go to the priest and offer a sacrifice and, instead, tells everyone what Jesus did for Him, something Jesus told him not to do. A curious crowd gathers and prevents Jesus from entering the city, hindering His mission there.

Jesus wants to work a miracle in your life. He wants to forgive your sin and make a way for you to have intimate fellowship with God. He may or may not choose to perform other miracles in your life, and that's okay. We have to trust that He is working all things together for our good and His glory. This life is just temporary anyway. It's eternity that matters most. We can't let ourselves get caught up in the sensational or become wistful for something more than God intends for us to have, or we will become a hindrance to Jesus' mission.

If you have a personal relationship with Jesus or are considering giving your heart to Him, understand that Jesus is not one of many ways to quench your thirst. He is the only way. Jesus can heal your heart. He will give you purpose and joy, but you must give everything in return both now and forever. There is no trying Jesus out for a while to see how a relationship with Him might benefit you. You either choose Jesus or you don't, and time will tell whether the experience that you claim as your moment of salvation is real or not. If it your salvation experience is real and you were sincere in giving your life to Him, there will be a real change in you (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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

1. Do you think Jesus performs miracles today? Explain and/or give examples.
2. Is it bad to want to see Jesus do miracles? Explain. Will miracles quench your spiritual thirst?
3. Are you more interested in what Jesus can do or who He is? Explain.
4. Are you more interested in being used by Jesus or being blessed by Jesus? Explain.
5. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? If so, how has Jesus changed you? If not, what is holding you back?
6. Does anything need to change?
7. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for each member of your group in whatever way works best for you.



THIRST

# THURSDAY EVENING DEVOTIONAL

## TAKING ACTION

### Prep Needs (Depending on Opening Choice)

#### Option One

- buckets (x2 for each team)
- backpacks (x1 for each team)
- items for teams of 5: key, spoon, eraser, matches, and a chip clip or twist tie.
- long table (x1 or 2 depending on number of teams)
- Binders (x1 for each team)
- adult helper
- items for adult helper: lock, open pudding cup, unlit candle, a flyer or other document with a huge pencil smear on it, and an open loaf of bread
- prize for team representatives or each team

#### Option Two

- long table (x1)
- suitcase (x1)
- items for suitcase/ scenarios: swim floaties, a Bible, money, a camera, snacks, underwear, shoes, sunscreen, ski gear, a coil of rope, a flashlight, pillow, a sleep mask, a dictionary or come up with more or other items and scenarios.

### Interactive Opening (10 minutes)

#### Option One

Divide your group into teams. Choose five representatives from each team for a relay. Encourage the rest of your students to cheer for their team representatives. At one end of the room, mark a starting line. Give each team one backpack and a bucket containing the following items: key, spoon, eraser, matches, and a chip clip or twist tie.

At the opposite end of the room, set up a long table. Station one adult helper (not part of any team) per team behind that table. In front of each helper set a binder up on its end so that the relay teams cannot see what is behind it. Give each helper a bucket with the following items: lock, open pudding cup, unlit candle, a flyer or other document with a huge pencil smear on it, and an open loaf of bread.

Ask the helpers to set out one of the items so that it cannot be seen behind the binder. Relay team members are to take turns packing and wearing the backpack. When it is their turn, they must pick one tool from their bucket, put it in the backpack, carry it to the other end of the room, and look behind the binder. If they brought the right tool for the job, they may complete the task before them and return the backpack to the next relay team member. If they brought the wrong tool for the job, they must return the useless tool to the bucket at the starting line, pick out the right tool, carry it in the backpack back to the table, and complete the task. Then, they may hand the backpack off to the next team member. The first team to complete all tasks with the correct tools and cross the start line wins.

#### Option Two

Stand at a table at the front of the room with an open, empty suitcase in front of you. Gather the following items and show them to your students before setting them to the side (These are just suggestions. You can be as concrete or absurd as you want to be in this exercise. Use your imagination.): swim "floaties", a Bible, money, a camera, snacks, underwear, shoes, sunscreen, ski gear, a coil of rope, a flashlight, pillow, a sleep mask, a dictionary.

Read the following scenarios one at a time to your students and ask them what they would need to pack for such a trip (If you have gathered different items, create scenarios to fit those items). Pack and repack the suitcase. You can make this really funny by packing the wrong items (i.e. packing the coil of rope for Vacation Bible School).

You are going to Jamaica for ten days with your best friend.

You are going to Colorado over Christmas break.

You are going on a mission trip to Venezuela to teach Vacation Bible school to elementary school children.

You are going spelunking (cave exploring).

You are going to a lock-in at your church.

## Discuss

It's hard to pack a bag when you don't know what lies ahead of you, but there is no excuse for being unprepared when you know what's coming. God doesn't want anyone to enter eternity unprepared. That's why He gave us the Bible, which is very clear about Heaven and Hell and who is going to end up where. Those who give their hearts to Jesus go to Heaven. Those who do not give their hearts to Jesus go to Hell, not because God wants it that way, but because they choose not to take action and heed God's warning.

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

There is a major and crucial difference between having a spiritual experience and becoming a follower of Jesus. The first requires nothing of you; the second demands everything. The world is full of people who claim to be Christians, but aren't. Sometimes they know they are faking it, and sometimes they don't. It is possible to experience emotion in worship, receive what seems to be an answer to prayer, speak knowledgeably about the Bible, and do good deeds without ever having a personal relationship with Jesus. To know Jesus personally is to surrender to Him fully and follow where He leads.

### Read Mark 10:17-22

The young man in this story was successful by the world's standards and by the standards of the religious leaders of his day, having great wealth and having kept every commandment. Still, he knew that it wasn't enough to get him to Heaven and came looking for Jesus, desperate for answers. He was on the right track. He had enough faith to believe that Jesus held the key to eternal life, but he wasn't willing to take action on that faith and so left without the spiritual healing he was looking for.

### Read Luke 17:11-14

The lepers in this story understood their need and believed that Jesus could meet their needs, as did the young ruler. They called to Jesus and asked Him to heal them of their leprosy. This request cost them nothing, and so Jesus did not heal them immediately. Instead, He told them to go show themselves to the priests. Still covered with sores, they did what Jesus asked, risking the scorn of those who would shun them if their wounds didn't heal. They had enough faith to take action, and so they were healed.

God gives us the faith it takes to believe in Jesus and surrender our lives to Him; what we do with that faith once He gives it is up to us. It's not enough to learn about Jesus and acknowledge that He is who He says He is. Even the demons do that (James 2:19). The Bible says that that kind of faith is "dead" (James 2:20). We have to act on the faith that God gives us, surrendering ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ permanently, not holding anything back. Then and only then will our faith save and change us. People who never change after having an "experience" with Jesus only met Him; they did not "get saved," or become a Christian (1 John 2:3-6).

Sooner or later, each of us has to decide for ourselves what we will do with Jesus. You cannot sit this one out. There is no middle ground. You are either for Him or against Him. Once you understand there is a choice to be made, you are responsible for your response to the Gospel. The choice you make will determine both the quality of your life now and where you will spend eternity. Are you prepared? Will you put your faith into action by surrendering to Him?

\*\*\*gospel presentation here\*\*\*

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

1. Whom do you relate to the most, the young ruler or the lepers? Explain.
2. Do you believe that Jesus is the key to eternal life? If so, have you put that faith into action by surrendering your whole life to Him? What was it like to take your first steps of faith?
3. If you don't believe that Jesus is the key to eternal life, what doubts or questions do you still have? Would you be open to letting someone help you find the answers you are looking for? (If they say "yes," send them to a Christian adult that is not currently leading a family group or offer to talk to them when everyone else has left.)
4. Do you consider it risky to choose to follow Jesus wherever he leads? Explain. Is Jesus worth the risk?
5. Jesus wants and deserves to be first in our lives. To follow Him, we must be willing to let go of everything else? What things in your life do you hold too tightly? Is Jesus asking you to let anything go?
6. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for each member of your group in whatever way works best for you.



## FOR KEEPS

### Prep Needs (Depending on Opening Choice)

#### Option One

- three doors or boxes (or anything that can hide the prizes) clearly numbered #1, #2, and #3
- three prizes of differing values (2 should be absolutely worthless. 1 should be something all of your students would want.)
- a dollar
- number slips for each student

#### Option Two:

- random items (Some of the items should be worthless, even gross. Others should be a pretty good deal for a dollar. One should be something that all of your students would be willing to pay a dollar for.)
- a dollar (in case no one has a dollar on them)

### Interactive Opening (10 minutes)

#### Option One

Play *Let's Make a Deal*. Set up three doors or boxes or anything that can hide the prizes to be given away in this game and number them visibly #1, #2, and #3. Behind each of the three doors or in each of the three boxes or hidden in the manner you chose, place three prizes of differing values. Two should be absolutely worthless. The other should be something that all of your students would want.

Pass out numbers to all of your students. When you are ready to play the game, choose a random number. The student with that number is your contestant. Call that contestant to the front of the room and give them a dollar. Explain to that student that there are three prizes hidden behind the doors, in the boxes, or wherever you hid them. Tell them that they can keep their dollar or choose a number to claim the corresponding hidden prize in exchange for their dollar. If they choose to keep their dollar, their choice is "for keeps," and they may sit down. Keep doing this until you have a student willing to trade their dollar for a prize.

Once the student chooses a number, show them their prize and take their dollar. Tell them that they can keep the prize or trade for another hidden prize, but remind them that they are playing "for keeps" this time. Let the student make their choice and reveal the result, reiterating that the results of their choice are final.

#### Option Two

Ask students if they have a dollar on them. Ask those who do to hold it up. Then, hold up random items. Ask who would be willing to pay their dollar for the item you hold up. You don't have to actually sell the items, but you can if you want to. Some of the items should be worthless, even gross. Others should be a pretty good deal for a dollar. One should be something that all of your students would be willing to pay a dollar for.

#### Discuss

A dollar isn't worth much anymore. Still, it seems a shame to spend it on something worthless. Furthermore, if you get a chance to trade a dollar for something worth far more than one hundred pennies, that's a real bargain. Of course, if you don't know what you are trading for, then you can't be held accountable for a bad trade, but if you know what you are trading for, there's no excuse for making a bad choice.

On the other hand, your life is extremely valuable, and you are currently spending it on something, whether you realize it or not. If you aren't daily giving yourself to Jesus Christ, then you are wasting it. Because the Bible tells us what God's will is for our lives, there is no excuse for making poor choices with what we have been given, and we will be held accountable some day. Where eternity is concerned, we are most definitely playing "for keeps."

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

Please be very careful not to sensationalize today's lesson (i.e. no they-died-in-a-car-wreck-on-the-way-home-from-church-after-not-getting-saved stories). You want your students to make sincere, informed, life-changing decisions for Christ, not false statements of faith based on fear and emotional manipulation that will only cause confusion for them later. Simply share Truth and leave room for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction.

Your life has worth, if only because Jesus died for you. Though your life is a gift, it was given to you for a specific reason, God's glory. To spend it on anything else is wasteful and foolish. Though it may seem that living your life for yourself is profitable now, getting you what you think you want here on earth, it isn't. Living this life for yourself will cost you in eternity, whether you are a Christian or not. (The price non-Christians will pay is eternity in Hell. The price Christians will pay for wasting time on themselves is some of their Heavenly reward.)

## Read Luke 19-31

This story is one of several parables, or teaching stories, that Jesus used to communicate Truth to the Pharisees, the political leaders of that day who claimed devotion to God but lived for themselves by their own power. Jesus wanted the Pharisees to understand that there would be a judgment one day and that what they accumulated for themselves here on earth would do nothing for them then. He also wanted them to understand that it would be too late at that point to change the eternal consequences of their self-centered choices here on earth.

This story has nothing, really, to do with the fact that one man is poor and one man is rich other than to point out the rich man's selfish nature (He didn't even care for the poor man right outside his gate.) and compare Lazarus' condition here on earth to his eternal condition. Jesus is not saying that poor people go to Heaven and rich people go to Hell.

Knowing what we do about what it takes to get to Heaven, we can assume that Lazarus had surrendered His heart to God because the angels took him to Heaven when he died. The fact that his name is given and the rich man's is not, also hints at the personal nature of God's relationship to this man. Not one of us would envy Lazarus' condition here on earth. He had no possessions and no one to love or provide for him. He didn't even have his health. In the end, though, his was the better condition by far. His brief life was miserable, but his eternity was blessed.

By sharp contrast, the rich man had family, wealth, and a measure of health. However, he did not have the most important thing, a right relationship with God. The fact that he knew exactly who Lazarus was when he saw him from Hell but didn't do anything to help him here on earth proves this. When he died, he went to hell for lack of that right relationship with God. Though many would envy the rich man's condition here on earth, in the end, his eternal condition was far worse than Lazarus'. His brief life was enjoyable, but his eternity was cursed.

### **This cautionary tale has just as much to say to us as it did to the Pharisees. Here are some important Truths to take away:**

1. The choices that we make reveal much about the condition of our hearts.
2. Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God. Notice that Lazarus and his brothers were familiar with teaching of Moses and the prophets, but Lazarus still ended up in Hell because he hadn't acted on what he knew about having a right relationship with God.
3. The struggles of this life are temporary, but the eternal blessing of Heaven waits for those who surrender their hearts to God and pursue Him.
4. The world and its pleasures will pass away, but the eternal misery of Hell waits for those who do not surrender their hearts to God and live for themselves instead.
5. The choices we make here on earth affect our eternity in a non-reversible, permanent way.
6. God is compassionate, wanting everyone to be saved, and every day that we live is God giving us a chance to surrender to Him before it is too late.

What Jesus offers you, both here on earth now and in Heaven later, far surpasses anything that you could dream up for yourself. Because He is everything you need, the only thing that lasts, He is the only thing worth having.

\*\*\*gospel presentation here\*\*\*

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

1. What encouragement do you draw from this parable? What warning do you hear in this parable?
2. Could this parable have taken place in American? Your home town? Your school? Explain your answer.
3. Do you live your life for yourself or for God? Would the people that live life around you (friends, acquaintances, and strangers) agree?
4. How does it make you feel to know that eternal judgment is coming and can't be avoided? For whom are you most concerned? What can you do about it?
5. Which of the Truths listed in this lesson do you think is most important for people to know? Whose job is it to tell them?
6. What do you sense God saying to you? How will you respond?
7. How can we pray for you? Spend time praying for each member of your group in whatever way works best for you.



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