

Camp Ray Bird  
Summer  
2003  
Staff Devotional



Dear Staff,

As we run the race together this summer, this devotional will help focus us each week. During our Covenant Group times, we will discuss what we are learning as we study.

You will find pages that look like this with some additional reading. This is to give those who want to study a little deeper an avenue to do that!

Our desire is that this summer be a time when the Lord stretches you spiritually as you are fed daily. As you serve the campers that He sends, remember that it is only through His strength we can accomplish the plans that he has.

Run well this summer: invest time in your devotions, build real relationships with the other staff and serve hard. We, the full-time staff, are here to work alongside you and meet your needs wherever we can!



Part  
of  
a  
Unique  
Breed

Uniquely Gifted  
With a Common Fruit  
Given a Single Task  
Commanded to be Unified  
Likeminded with Christ

Uniquely Gifted  
Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

Why do you think Paul stress initially that there is one Spirit, one Lord and one God as he begins the discussion of gifts?

According to vs. 7, what is a gift?

Why is it given?

As you read this chapter, what are some of the facts given related to gifts, God's purpose for them and their functions: (try to find at least 10)

Read Romans 12:3-8

How does thinking about our giftedness soberly affect the way we use our gifts?

From this passage and the 1 Corinthians one~ list as many gifts as you see:

Where do you see yourself gifted?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

What does it look like for you to 'faithfully administer' the gift God has given you?

How does vs. 11 and 12a work out such that God is the one praised?

What does God want you to do in response to today's study?





For some additional reading along this theme:

Read John Chapters 14-16 and study the sending, description and work of the Holy Spirit.

# With a Common Fruit

## Day 2

Read Galatians 5:13-26

During our camper visits this year, one camper listed the fruit she found in this

passage:

Oranges

Apples

Grapes

Bananas

Peaches

Nectar

Gratifirot

Magot

Kiwi

Read Galatians 5:16-26

What are the characteristics that are common in the sinful nature?

List the Fruit that the Spirit brings to us:

This gave us many chuckles in the office in January, though it powerfully illustrates why we are about doing what we are- be encouraged as you serve!

Vs. 25 seems to imply that there is some work we must do to keep in step with the Spirit- what do you think this entails?

What do you think it means to crucify the sinful nature? What are some practical steps you can take?

Which are some of the fruit that you see growing in you? How is this evidence of the Spirit's residence in you?

Spend some time now praying for the Spirit to show you what He wants to work on in you these next few weeks.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



# Given a Single Task

## Day 3

Read Matthew 28:18-20

What is our task?

Why is it significant that Jesus has been given the authority?

Read Ephesians 3:7-21

Why do you think Paul describes his job to preach as a 'grace' given to him?

What is your heart attitude as you approach this task here this summer?

How can you explain the 'unsearchable riches of Christ' to the children here this week?

Paul recognizes that he needs strength from God to complete the task he has been given.

How does grasping God's immeasurable love for us help us to share with others?

Follow Paul's example and kneel right now before the Father and thank Him that He enables us to accomplish His task. Pray specifically for campers that come to your mind.

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Commanded to be Unified

## Day 4

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

What amazing miracle of unity does Christ accomplish?

How does our unity allow us to become a Holy Temple?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

What do you think is entailed in 'making every effort'?

From vs. 4-6 what is our basis for unity?

During the time here this summer, how have you been used to build unity amongst the summer staff?

How have you torn down unity amongst the staff?

What is the 'effort' you need to make?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?





For some additional reading along this theme:

Read Nehemiah Chapters 1-6

Observe their unity, their incredible accomplishment working as a body...

# Likeminded with Christ

## Day 5

Read Phillipians 2:1-11

Why does Paul believe we should be likeminded?

From these verses, what is the 'mind of Christ'- describe it?

What do you think humility looks like?

How do you balance looking at your own interests as well as the interests of others?

What does looking out for someone else's interests versus your own look like in a day here?

Who are the 'others' you are looking out for?

As you grow in having the mind of Christ, what is an area you need to be obedient in?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



# The Training

We Study

We Pray & Meditate

We Serve

We Submit

We Live Simply



The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people. The classical disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths.

The purpose of the disciplines is liberation from stifling slavery to self-interest and fear. The primary requirement is a longing after God.

Perhaps somewhere in the subterranean chambers of your life you have heard the call to deeper, fuller living. Every now and then you have caught glimpses, hints of something more than you have known. Inwardly you long to launch out into the deep.

# The Discipline of Study

## Day 1

Read 2 Kings

22:1-23:3

How old was Josiah when he became king?

When did he order the temple repairs?

What made him tear his robes- what was he meaning?

Many Christians may be faithful in church attendance and earnest in fulfilling religious duties, and still they are not changed. I am not speaking here only of those who are going through merely religious forms, but of those who are genuinely seeking to worship and obey Jesus Christ as Lord and Master. Yet their lives remain unchanged...why? Because they have never taken up one of the central ways God uses to change us: study. Jesus made it unmistakable clear that the knowledge of the truth will set us free. Without a knowledge of the truth we will not be free.

Why was he spared the coming disaster?

What response pleases the Lord when His word is read?

22:13

22:19

23:3

Read Hebrews 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:16

From these verses, what is the job of the scriptures?

As you sit and honestly inspect your life, what needs to change with your study of the word?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?





For some additional reading along this theme:

Read Acts Chapter 17. Reflect and write out how Paul demonstrated how he has 'paid the brain bill' and studied the scriptures as well as a variety of other topics.

# The Discipline of Prayer/Meditation

## Day 2

Study of the word is essential to know God and see him accurately. Prayer is necessary for intimacy with our Father.

Jesus prayed      Matthew 26:36

Jesus taught the disciples to pray      Matthew 6:9-13

We are commanded to pray      Philippians 4:6-7

Sit now and spend some time praying. Begin by thanking God for who he is and lifting up His character, confess your sins to Him, lift up any requests and then sit quietly and listen to the Holy Spirit. **Spend at least 15 minutes.**

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# The Discipline of Fasting

## Day 3

Definition: to go without food especially as a religious duty.

More than any other discipline fasting reveals the things that control us.  
Richard Foster

From the following verses, what does fasting produce in us?

Psalms 69:10-11

1 Corinthians 6:12

Luke 2:36-37

Leviticus 23:26-32

Read Isaiah 58:1-9

What does God condemn in their fasts?

What should true fasting produce in our hearts according to these verses?

Read Matthew 6:16-18

How can you tell Jesus assumes we will fast?

How should we do it?

Just as the other disciplines do not carry a guarantee of spiritual growth, but will put our hearts in a position to hear the Lord and respond, so fasting allows us to focus on the Lord without distractions.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## The Discipline of Simplicity

### Day 4

I enjoyed Foster's thoughts on simplicity so much, but it is hard to prepare a study...following are thoughts from the chapter on Simplicity in "Celebration of Discipline"

Read Matthew 6:25-34

What does it look like in your life to seek His kingdom first—what would change, what would stay the same?

What does this have to do with not worrying?

Read the following verses and write next to each what our focus should be in:

1 Peter 3:3-4

1 Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19

Matthew 6:24

Philippians 4:19

**Simplicity: an inward reality that results in an outward lifestyle.**

Foster would say that a right heart, set on seeking God's kingdom first impacts our physical world— how we spend our time, our \$\$, who we spend time with....

He suggests **3 inner attitudes of Simplicity** that we must cultivate if we are to outwardly live a simple life.

- 1) To receive what we have as a gift from God. We work but we know that it is not our work that gives us what we have.
- 2) To know that it is God's business, not ours, to care for what we have. We can trust Him. God is able to protect what we possess.
- 3) To have our goods available to others.

Which of these 3 attitudes is hardest for you?

Why is an attitude of simplicity worth developing?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## The Discipline of Service

### Day 5

Read John  
13:1-17

It was customary in these times that prior to dinner the 'least' person in a group would wash the others feet. The disciples were obviously aware of this, yet no one stood up to serve.

Why do you think no one volunteered to serve the others?

Why do we hesitate to serve?

Why do we hesitate to let people serve us?

What do you think is the difference between "being a servant" and "choosing to serve?"

What heart attitude is developed when we decide to be a servant?

Read Philippians 2:3-11

What is contrasted with humility?

Write out a time when someone else considered you 'better than themselves'- how did it impact you.

What opportunities have you had this week to be a servant?

How has your attitude been in these situations?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Being Made Holy Day 1

## Life: The Race

### (Sanctification)

We are Being Made Holy

We Work it Out

We are Pressing On

We have Demonstrated Faith

We are Abiding Daily



Read Hebrews 10:8-18

What does God not desire?

Why did He institute such things if He did not desire them?

Why does it matter that Christ's sacrifice is once and for all?

Where is Christ now and why is this significant?

Explain vs. 14 in your own words:



For some additional reading along this theme:

Read Psalm 40. Write out your reflections on David's feelings about his salvation.

See Exodus 21:1-6 for an explanation of vs. 6.

What is being made holy in you this week?

## Working it Out Day 2

Read Philippians 2:12-16

What does it look like to work out your salvation?

How does it motivate you to know that your sins are remembered no more?

Explain the balance between verses 12 & 13:

How does not complaining make us blameless?

How does complaining reflect a rebellion or lack of submission to God?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



Where do you struggle with complaining?

## Pressing On Day 3

Re-read vs. 12-16 and spend some time reflecting on what it means to:

*Shine like a star in the midst of this generation*

*Hold out the word of life*

Describe something you have seen God work out in you:

Read Philippians 3:12-21

What has Christ taken hold of for us?

How then can we 'press on' to take hold of it?

Why is it good to forget what is behind?

What are some of the things you need to forget?

What do you think is the prize we are called heavenward toward?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



How does a Godly example help you to press on?

List some of the Godly examples you have had:

In verse 21 he speaks of the eventual transformation of our bodies- daily He transforms us as we 'press on'.

Pray now and ask the Lord to show you areas you need to lay aside.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## Demonstrating our Faith Day 4

Read James 2:14-26

What is the overall question James is posing here?

Explain how you see faith and actions relating:

How, today, has your faith been shown by what you did?

How, in the last week, has your faith been denied by your actions, thoughts, etc...

Explain vs. 24:

The teaching and balance between faith and deeds is hard. Martin Luther wanted to remove James from the Bible because he believed it suggested a faith based on works. It is good to wrestle with this.

As you read this, does it cause any tension in you— what are your thoughts?

What do you sense the Lord is trying to communicate to you today?



## Abiding Daily Day 5

Read John 15:1-17

Who is the:

Vine:

Gardener:

Branches:

What is the difference explained here in being 'pruned' and being 'cut off'?

Do you think the branches being cut off represent Christians undergoing the fire and 'escaping through the flames' as in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 or false believers that will be cast away as in The Wheat and the Weeds— Matthew 13:24-30?

Explain:

What does it mean/ look like to abide:

What are things that happen in us if we remain in Him?

What are you appointed to do?

How does this happen?

Sit and think about what it means to be called a friend of Jesus.

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



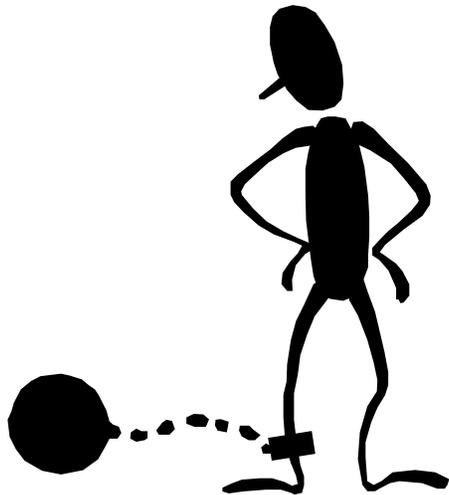
For some additional reading along this same theme:

Read Isaiah 5:1-7 and look up other OT references to "The Vine".

Write out your reflections as you read:

# The Unexpected Hurdles

What Sin & Distractions  
Do to our Walk



## The Race Day 1

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

What are the 2 things we are to rid ourselves of:

Describe what these things look like in your life:  
Hindrances:

Entangling Sin:

What are some practical ways we can rid ourselves of these?

How does the cloud of witnesses we are surrounded by  
impact this process?



Here is some additional reading along this same line:

Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 1-2

Write out your reflections comparing this with the passage on the Rich Young Man:

After day 3



Here is some additional reading along this same line:

Read Ecclesiastes Chapter 3-4

Write out your observations from these chapters as related to the things that distract us:

After day 4



Here is some additional reading along this same line:

Read 2 Samuel Chapter 11-12

Reflect on the hindrances and entanglements David faced.

Where did he fail?

How can this help you?

So we first “throw off”

Then we “run with perseverance”

As we “fix our eyes on Jesus”

What specifically marks a person running with perseverance?

What does it mean to ‘consider Jesus’ and how does that help us?

Spend some time praying now that you will not grow weary and lose heart as you serve and run this summer.

What do you sense that Lord is trying to communicating to you today?



## The Temptation Day 2

Read Matthew 4:1-11

In what 3 areas is Jesus tempted?

What do these areas look like in your life?~ specifically:

What is Jesus’ main tactic of resistance?

Why do you think He uses this (why is it effective)?

Evaluate yourself now~ how ar you doing in the area of scripture memory?

Spend some time right now memorizing:

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.  
1 Corinthians 10:13

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## The Rich Young Man

### Day 3

Read Luke 18:18-30 and Matthew 19:16-30

Why do you think Jesus reply as He does regarding the word 'good'- it almost seems argumentative?

Which commandments does Jesus leave out?

(Exodus 20:1-17)

Why do you think Jesus uses the commandments that He does and leaves out the ones He does?

In the Matthew passage, the man replies that he has kept all the commands but still questions what he lacks— why do you think he still senses he lacks something?

Explain Jesus' demand to **go.....sell.....give:**

What is it in your life that prevents you from following Him that He would say 'sell'?

What do you sense the Lord is trying to communicate to you today?



## A Feast! Day 4

Read Luke 14:15-24

In this passage, what distracts the people from coming to the banquet?

How do your possessions pull you away from God?  
be specific:

What people distract you from the Lord? How do they do this?

The people in this parable completely missed the kingdom due to their distraction. How can you take your distractions seriously-?

What can you do practically to rid yourself of these distractions?

What do you sense the Lord is trying to communicate to you today?



## A Worldly Summary Day 5

Read 1 John 2:15-17

From this passage, list the things of the world:

Describe each in your own words:

Cravings of sinful man:

Lust of the eyes:

Boasting of what he has and does:

Why do you think these are contrasted with doing God's will?

What is the promise for following God's will?

Read Matthew 6:24

What is the statement of truth Jesus is teaching here?

How do you see yourself serving money (or the lack of it)?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

How are we called to live?

Paul explains that we need to learn to control our bodies—  
what practical things can we do to accomplish this?

*Our degree of sexual self control is directly related to the degree we love God and love others*

Read Daniel 4:34-37

*Daniel is asked to interpret a dream for King Nebuchadnezzar. The King had been very prideful and was going to be judged by God. His power would be taken away and he would live like an animal for 7 years until he can recognize God's sovereignty.*

What happens just prior to Nebuchadnezzar receiving his sanity back?

Why do you think this is significant?

What important truth does he recognize about himself (see his last sentence)?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Endurance: The Finish Line In Sight



Insights on Endurance  
from  
Paul to Timothy...  
fighting, living, training,  
suffering and finishing well

## Fighting Well

Day 1 - 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:12

Paul writes to his 'son in the faith' Timothy some instructions for serving and enduring. 2 Timothy is the last writing of the Apostle Paul and is especially poignant as we realize the wealth of wisdom, experience and love he shares for and with Timothy. Enjoy the reading and instruction - and endure!

Read 1 Timothy Chapter 1

What task in vs. 4 does Paul urge Timothy to take on?

Why do you think Paul spends the time right now to write such a long section on God's grace to him? How would this encourage Timothy?

What does it look like for Timothy (and for us) to fight the good fight?

Who has He given you in your life to be a "Paul"?

Read Joshua 1:1-9

What seems to be impossible right now that God is asking you to do?

How has the example of the "Paul" in your life enabled you to do this impossible task like Moses example enables Joshua?

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-21

How challenging it had to be for Timothy to hear Paul refer to him as 'man of God'. As he is fighting the good fight of faith, what characteristics does Paul want to see him pursue?

How can you, as Timothy in vs. 20, guard what has been entrusted to you? (What has been entrusted to you?)

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## Living Well

### Day 2-1 Timothy 4:12

Read 1 Timothy chapters 2-4

What are some of the specifics Paul instructs Timothy to teach as he leads the body he is in charge of?

Why is it important to have some standards of conduct for the church? (vs. 3:15)

Which of Paul's guidelines stand out the most to you (several gave me pause:)

From vs. 4:11 – Why does he tell him to both command as well as teach these things? What do you see as the difference?

How does verse 4:12 challenge you?

Which are needs the most work for you as you set out to be an example to those around you?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## Training Well

### Day 3-1 Timothy 4:7-8

Read 1 Timothy chapters 4-6

Paul continues on with instructions for the body. In the middle of these, Paul tells Timothy in 4:7 to train himself for godliness. What specific instructions does he give him related to this in the rest of this chapter?

Over all in 1 Timothy – what are the characteristics of godliness Paul encourages for the body? (Try to get a good list)

For example: 6:8 contentment

Many of us train physically to be healthy, in shape, lose weight, etc....what are some principles that govern our physical training that can help us train for godliness?

What area of training in your life needs work right now?

Spend some time praying for the Holy Spirit to help you in this area.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## Suffering Well

Day 4- 2 Timothy 2:3, 3:12

Read 2 Timothy chapters 1-3

It is encouraging that Paul, as he recalls Timothy's tears, longs to see him. Timothy has been a leader in his church just as you are a leader here. As a leader- what brings you to tears?

Paul mentions suffering at least 4 times in these 3 chapters- how do his examples of the soldier, the farmer and the athlete help you see what suffering well looks like?

Paul says he is able to suffer well because he knows whom he has believed in (1:12)- What have you learned personally in your walk with God that can help you endure suffering?

Explain vs. 2:15:

How does vs. 3:16 relate to this pursuit?

How can you become one who correctly handles the word of truth?

Paul says in vs. 2:10 that he is willing to suffer much to see people come to salvation. How are you suffering this summer in a similar manner?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## Finishing Well

### Day 5 - 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Read Acts 20:22-24, and 2 Timothy chapter 4

What does Paul recognize according to vs. 6?

Why does this make his commands to Timothy especially poignant in vs. 5?

From vs. 9-18, what is Paul's situation right now?

Have you ever felt or been deserted by people that really mattered to you? How did you get through it?

Paul remarks that the Lord stood with him and gave him strength~ for a purpose. What is the “so that”.....the purpose for the strength given him?

What evidence do you have from this passage that Paul has indeed ‘finished well’?

What encouragement is there for you in the situation you are facing right now?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



Steve Camp...about Timothy

Oh my dear Timothy, Hold on to the Faith  
Keep your conscience pure and holy, Fight the good fight  
every day

Don't give in to myths and fables, Train yourself for  
Godliness

You've got to be an example in your youth

You've got to be faithful to the truth

You've got to watch your life and doctrine closely

It'll save you, and those who hear you to.

Oh my son Timothy, I charge you in the sight of God  
Preach the word when it's convenient, Preach the word when  
it's not

For they'll come a time when truth is compromised

There will be teaching for itching ears

But you~ be sober in all things

But you~ endure hardship for the King

But do the work of an evangelist~ this is my dying wish

I have fought the fight

I have finished the race

I've been faithful to Him

For I have kept the faith

Now there's laid up for me a crown of righteousness

And there waits one for all

Who love the coming of Jesus

# Already Won The Race



## A Resurrection

### Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 15

How does Christ's resurrection give us assurance of our eventual victory?

Why is our faith futile if Christ has not been raised?

Explain vs. 19 in your own words:

Assuming that none of us have fought wild beasts in Ephesus (vs. 32), what are you doing right now that is not for human reasons?

What are your reasons:

Compare and contrast our earthly bodies and our spiritual bodies:

Earthly

Spiritual

What do you think of when you read “we will be changed, we will be raised”?

Read vs. 58 over several times~ write it out:

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## A Great Crowd

### Day 2 & 3

Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3 . We will take 2 days to complete this~ so take your time!

What are you hopeful for that you cannot see?

List what each person's faith was commended for:

Abel

Enoch

Noah

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

Moses

Israelites

Rahab

Along with Jacob, read Genesis 32:22-32  
What strikes you from this passage:

Along with Joseph read Genesis 50:22-26 and  
Exodus 13:17-22

Which of all the persons listed in chapter 11 impacts you the most? Why?

Why is faith essential to God?

Explain vs. 40:

How does the great Cloud of Witnesses strengthen us?

As you experience discouragement, how can you fix your eyes on Jesus?

Right now, what is discouraging for you? Find someone and ask them to pray with you.

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Another Multitude

## Day 4

Read Revelation 7:9-17 and 19:1-10

Though the multitude in chapter 7 refers to the 144,000 sealed Jews, we can imagine another group from every nation at the wedding feast. Campers here this week will be beside you in the throng. Picture yourself with some of the campers here this week, worshipping Jesus.

Why do you think John specifically mentions the various peoples around the throne?

How comfortable are you right now with expressively worshipping God?

How does the knowledge that heaven is a surety comfort you?

Write out that characteristics of God that most impact you:

Spend some time right now praising Him in prayer for these characteristics.

How are you, as those in chapter 19, making yourself ready for the wedding?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



# Heaven at Last

## Day 5

Read Revelation 21-22:6

Does heaven seem appealing? scary? welcome?

Why?

What is the most amazing thing in the description of the Holy City here?

In what ways, right now, is Jesus the light for you?

For what will God be wiping tears from your eyes?

What real hope does this offer our campers?

Read Philippians 1:21-26

Paul, it seemed, had his eyes focused ahead on the joy of being with Jesus while he lived here with a purpose.

Pray now for this same purpose.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?

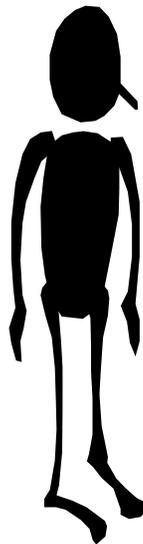




Qualifying  
Time  
Trials-  
Positional  
Truths

We are Justified  
We are given Grace  
We reflect God's glory  
We are Free  
We are Heirs

As believers we stand in  
Christ, we are freely gifted  
with many things...



Justified  
Day 1

Read Romans 4:1-5:11

Explain Paul's argument against a works based faith:

Define the word 'justified':

Why is Paul's use of the words "credited righteousness" very appropriate?

Explain vs. 4:25

What does it mean to you to have peace with God?

How can you explain what this means to the campers this week?  
How does it impact them practically?

Why is it important to note that we were powerless to save ourselves?

What is the real consequence for those not justified?

*What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?*



Here is some additional reading along the same line:

A word study is where you look up all the references to a specific word to gain a fuller understanding of its meaning. Let's look at "justified". Look up the following verses and gather a definition in your own words.

Acts 13:39

Romans 3:24

Romans 3:28

Romans 4:2

Romans 5:1

Romans 5:9

Romans 8:30

Romans 10:10

1 Corinthians 6:11

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 2:17

Galatians 3:11

Galatians 3:24

Galatians 5:4

Titus 3:7

James 2:24

# Given Grace

## Day 2

Read Romans 5:12-21, Ephesians 2:6-9 and Titus 2:11-12

From Romans,  
Explain how sin entered the world and was passed to all of us:

Compare the Gift offered with the result of 'one man's sin':

Why do you think he takes so much time in explaining the condemnation resulting from sin? (What does this have to do with grace)

From Ephesians,  
How is God's grace expressed to us?

Are there still areas you boast in as if they are what saves you?

From Titus,  
What does grace help us with besides our salvation?

Explain how you see it doing this:

In what area right now do you need God's grace~ ask Him to search your heart.

What do think God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# We Reflect God's Glory

## Day 3

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18-4:18

How does recognizing that it is God's mercy allowing us to be involved in ministry motivate us to renounce secret and shameful ways, deception and distortion?

What do types of things do you think Paul is referring to in vs. 2?

How is it evident to you that you are a jar of clay?

Reflect and write out a situation where you felt that the Lord's glory really shone through your 'cracks':

How, this summer, have you felt hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted and struck down?

How, during these times, are you able to be renewed 'day by day' as in vs. 16?

What are some 'eternal' things you hold on to that help you fix your eyes on the prize?

What do you sense the Lord is trying to communicate to you today?



# We are Free

## Day 4

Read Galatians 5:1-15 and Genesis 17:1-14

Explain the Covenant of Circumcision:

Why does Paul say that Christ would have no value to the Galatians if they allowed themselves to be circumcised?  
(remember that they are Gentile)

What can we compare circumcision to today? (as in something that we do to be approved before God)

How does this alienate you from Christ and His grace?

How can our freedom be used to indulge our sin– give some specifics in your life?

How are you doing this week at serving in love all the people around you– campers, staff, etc...?

Read 1 Corinthians 8:9-13

Explain these verses and how they affect you?

Can you identify things that are stumbling blocks for you?

Pray and ask the Lord to show you areas you need freedom in as well as areas you need to restrain for the sake of others.

What do you sense the Lord wants you to do in response to today's study?



# We are Heirs Day 5

Read Galatians 3:26-4:7 and Romans 8:15-17

Write out some of the real benefits we receive as heirs:

How do you feel being called a son or daughter of God?

How have your earthly parents affected the way that you see the Lord?

Has your relationship with your parents helped or hindered you in growing close to your heavenly Father?

In what ways this summer or previously have you shared Christ's suffering?

Write out a letter to your parents (that you will NOT mail) explaining how the ways they have related to you have helped you to see the Lord clearly or caused you to struggle in this.

What do you sense the Lord is trying to communicate to you through today's study?



Life  
Outside  
The  
Race-  
Reality



The Parable of the Sower  
Day 1

Read Matthew 13:1-23

Regardless of your position here this summer, you are a seed sower....

What is the reality we face even as we sow the seed?

What can you do to help prepare the soil so that hearts are less calloused?

How can you see the 'evil one' snatching away what has been sown this week?

What can you do to specifically combat this?

What are some of the rocky places the thorns that the campers will face as they head home?

Can you think of a creative way to discuss this with the campers?

From vs. 15, what happens when someone really sees, hears and understands?

Spend some time praying now for the campers this week to

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## Parables to Chew On Day 2

Read Matthew 13:24-52

Explain the meaning of The Parable of the Weeds:

Explain the meaning of the Parable of the Nets:

How are they similar?

What is the sober reality presented in these parables?

Can we tell who the weeds or the bad fish are? Whose job is that?

Why should we feel a sense of urgency as we hold out the life that Christ offers?

Do you feel urgency? If not—how can you develop this?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## Lost and Found Day 3

Read Luke chapter 15

What does it mean for someone to be lost spiritually?

In both the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, the Father goes searching for what is lost. How does God search for people today?

What part do you play in His searching?



Here is some additional reading along the same line:

Read Jeremiah Chapter 1 and Jeremiah 20:7-18

Reflect on Jeremiah's calling and appointment as well as the fire that burns within him to share God's word.

In the Old Testament, it is believed that no one suffers more than Jeremiah—yet he continues in what God has called him to.

Pray for the same fire to share God's truth.

How does the disadvantaged backgrounds most of our campers come from help them in coming to the Lord?

How does it hinder them?

How is this illustrated in the Lost Son parable?

Spend some time right now praying to care, as the Lord does, for the lost sheep He wants to find.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## We Are Watchmen Day 4

Read Ezekiel 33:1-20

What was the Lord's warning to Ezekiel?

How are you like a watchman?

What is your responsibility here this summer?

What is the specific warning you are to send out?

Where will the sword eventually come from and what will it do?

In what ways are we accountable for those around us— what are we responsible to do?

Spend some time praying that you will clearly speak the message to those who are your responsibility.

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



## A Rich Man's View Day 5

Read Luke 16:19-31

How does this parable describe Hell?

What is the warning given here?

Why are verses 27-28 especially sad?

Why do you think the Rich Man is concerned for his family when he had no concern for Lazarus when he was alive?

How is Lazarus like those we are ministering to this summer?

Spend some time praying right now for those you know who are headed for hell. Pray for your increasing awareness of this reality.

List those you would commit to pray for (not necessarily campers~ whoever the Lord would lay on your heart)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Before the Foundation

## Day 1

Read Romans 8:29-30

What are we predestined to:

In your own words, define:

Called

Justified

Glorified

Read Ephesians 1: 1-14

What are some of the things this passage says we are blessed with:

# The Calling

Chosen Before the Foundation

Chosen People Belonging to

God

Chosen with a Job to Do

Chosen Out of the World

Chosen to Look Peculiar



When you think about being 'chosen before the foundations of the world', what does it mean to you?

How does knowing you are chosen and called impact the way you see your ministry here?

Spend some time thanking the Lord that He chose you.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## Belonging to God Day 2

Read 1 Peter 2: 9-10

List out the ways this passage describes us as believers:

Which stands out to you the most and why?

What do you think is entailed in belonging to God?

Read 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

In this passage, what does it mean to belong to God:

Do you feel some rebellion at the idea that you are not your own?

What is the implication for different parts of your body being united with Christ:

Your eyes

Your feet

Your hands

Your heart

Your ears

Your mouth

How does knowing you were bought with a costly price impact the way that you live?

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



## A Job to Do Day 3

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

Why have you been chosen?

Do you have a sense of what God's work for you is?

How does being God's workmanship enable you to do this work He has for you?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Do you feel like you know what it is to fear the Lord? (vs. 11)

Do you feel compelled to persuade men? Is there another word you would use to describe how you feel towards sharing the gospel with others?

What is the non-worldly perspective of people (campers)? (vs. 16)

Describe how you are an ambassador here in whatever job you have?

Pray now to see yourself as:

**One who lives for Him** (vs. 15)

**A new creation** (vs. 17)

**An ambassador** (vs. 20)

**The righteousness of God** (vs. 21)



Here is some additional reading along this line:

Read John Chapter 21

Think on the conversation between Jesus and Peter and write out your observations:

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?



# Out of this World

## Day 4

Read the following passages:

John 15:18-22, James 4:4-10 and 1 John 2:15-17

How does it become evident to the world that we don't really belong to it?

What is their (the world's) promised response?

Why should this be encouraging to us?

What is the concern if we are never hated by the world?

From John 15:22, what specifically has Jesus done to enrage the world?

The Spirit is envious for those areas in us which are worldly—spend some time now praying and asking Him to show you which areas are not His.

What do you sense God is trying to communicate to you today?



# A Peculiar Look

## Day 5

Read Colossians 3:12-17

If you read 1 Peter 2:9 in the King James Version, it calls us a "peculiar people". The NIV translated this same thought as a 'people belonging to God'.

How does this passage describe the peculiar look we are to have- what defines us as belonging to God? List it out please :)

List each one again and define in your own words:

Why is it essential for God's word to richly dwell in us if we want to teach and admonish (correct) each other? We need each other if we are to grow in the previous qualities.

How have you been taught and admonished this summer?

How have you been teaching and admonishing this summer?

Which of these areas of peculiarity is a strength or a gift of yours?

Which area needs prayer and work?

What do you sense God wants you to do in response to today's study?





Now that the campers have gone home and you have some time to sit and reflect...

Write out some of the things you believe the Lord has impressed on your heart this summer:

Write out the ways you have seen the Lord move in lives:

Write out things you are thankful for: