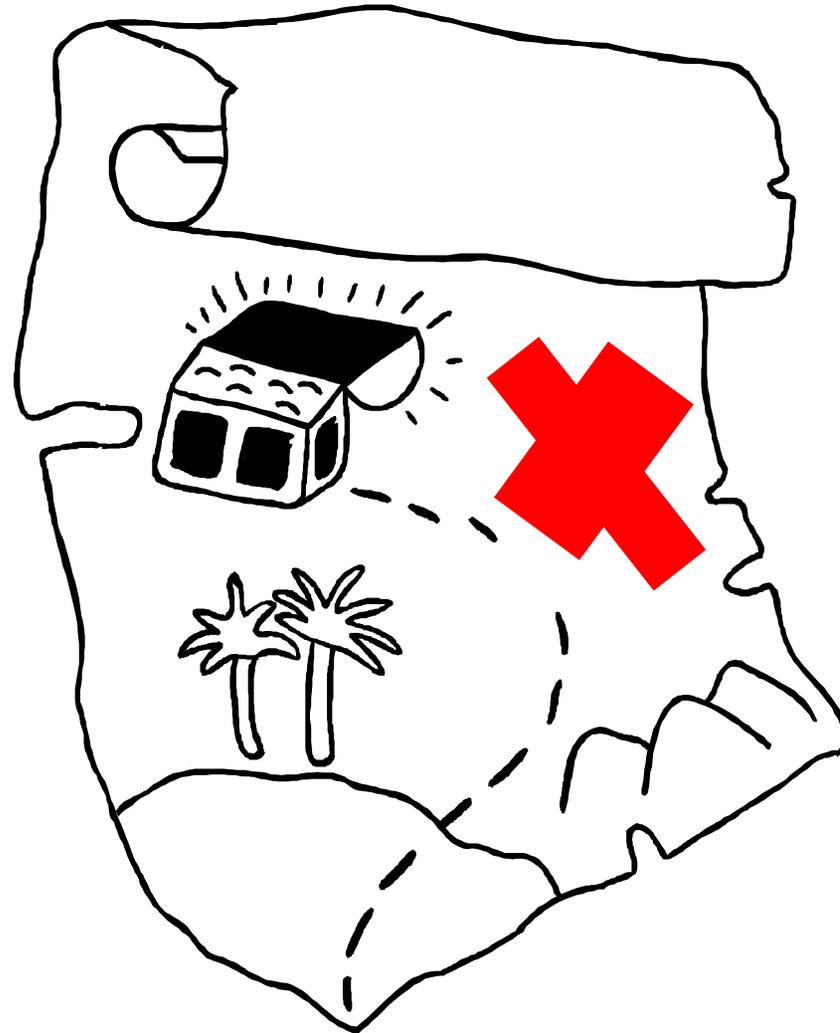


# Summer Staff Devotional 2004

**"THE KINGDOM OF  
HEAVEN IS LIKE  
TREASURE  
THAT WAS  
HIDDEN IN  
A FIELD.  
WHEN A  
MAN FOUND  
IT, HE HID  
IT AGAIN.  
HE WAS  
VERY  
HAPPY. SO  
HE WENT  
AND SOLD  
EVERY-  
THING HE  
HAD. AND  
HE BOUGHT  
THAT  
FIELD.  
-JESUS  
(MT 13:44)**



**Marks The Spot !!**

As we enter this summer searching for the 'X' that marks the spot, we want to spend much time getting to know The 'X', the Standard, the person Mark teaches about in his gospel.

Let's spend time together growing more in love with Jesus. We will see Him tenderly love children, stir the waters for many of the religious adults and stretch His disciples to see past themselves.

## Staff Training Week Monday

Read Mark, chapters 1-4

Give each chapter your own title:

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Write out the things that interest you, challenge you or confuse you in these 4 chapters:

**Week 8**  
**Day 5**

Read Psalm 90 and Psalm 33

These Psalms always cause me to think about how the Lords plans are the ones that prevail, His works will last.  
As the Psalmist asks in 90:17 for the Lord to establish the work of his hands...

Ask the Father now to establish the work you have done this summer in His name. Pray for campers that come to mind. Ask that He continue His work in them through this year.

Yes, establish the work of our hands...

**Staff Training Week**  
**Tuesday**

Read Mark, chapters 5-8

Give each chapter your own title:

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Write out the things that interest you, challenge you or confuse you in these 4 chapters:

## Staff Training Wednesday

Read Mark, Chapters 9-12

Give each chapter your own title:

Chapter 9

Chapter 10

Chapter 11

Chapter 12

Write out the things that interest you, challenge you or confuse you in these 4 chapters:

About what would Jesus ask you “do you love me more than these”?

The first two times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, He uses the word ‘agape’ for a selfless love.....Peter respond with the word “phileo” for a friendship love....

Clearly Peter is not quite where the Lord is drawing him to. Finally Jesus changes the word he uses to “phileo” and Peter must breathe a sigh of relief as he is able to agree.

Jesus sees exactly where you are at, wants to challenge you to move, but remains steadfastly loving you.

Ask the Lord to show you where your love for Him is more “phileo” when it needs to be “agape” ...

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 8**  
**Day 4**

Read John chapter 21

It seems ironic that even after Jesus has risen the disciples (led by Peter) return to what was comfortable- fishing (for fish).

How does Jesus demonstrate incredible mercy for them?

As you plan to return to “normal life”, what comfortable areas do you need to be rid of? Where do you need to stay stretched and faithful?

What strikes you in Jesus’ conversation with Peter?

**Staff Training**  
**Thursday**

Read Mark, Chapters 13-16

Give each chapter your own title:

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 16

Write out the things that interest you, challenge you or confuse you in these 4 chapters:

## Staff Training Friday

Reflect on the things that you have heard, read, etc...this week.

What are 3 things you would like the Lord to work in you this summer?

What are 2 personal goals you have for the summer?

Spend some time praying and thanking the Lord for the opportunity to be used this summer.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 8

### Day 3

As we ended yesterday reflecting on how the Lord has confirmed His work through you this summer....spend some time reflecting today on "God sightings" from the summer. Times where you know the Lord used you, times you saw the Spirit at work, etc...

Write out as many as you can remember.... you can read Psalm 66 to get you started.

## Week 1 Day 1

Read Mark 1:1-13 and Luke 1:5-25

From the passage in Luke, what kind of parents did John the Baptist seem to have?

When the angel speaks to Zechariah, what kind of things do we learn about John?

Why do you think the angel is so stern about Zechariah's question?

Has there been a time in your life when you believed the Lord was telling you something unbelievable?

What does it look like for you to respond in faith at those times?

How does Elizabeth's response differ from her husband's?

Compare the picture of the priest in Hebrews 10 with Jesus after He is taken up to heaven. Why is this significant?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Why is it important the Jesus did in fact rise from the dead?

Explain vs. 19:

As the disciples went out (vs. 20), their work for the Lord was confirmed by His power....how have you seen that to be true for you this summer? How has the Lord confirmed your work here?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 8 Day 2

Read Mark chapter 16

Trying to imagine the feelings and thoughts the women struggled with as they fled from the tomb...the paradigm in which they lived had shifted tremendously.

What are some things you struggle to grasp about the Lord, where does your viewpoint need shifted?

Are there areas in your life that the Lord does not seem big enough to deal with? Ask Him to show you these...

How do you see yourself working out the Great Commission in your life? (see also Matthew 28:18-20)

From the Mark passage, describe John and his ministry?

As John describes his view of himself compared to Jesus who is to come, what can this teach us?

Why do you think God sent John as a messenger prior to Jesus?

What things in your life do you need to repent and seek forgiveness from so that you can experience Jesus in a fuller way?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 1 Day 2

Read Mark 1:14-20 and 2:13-17

Matthew 14:3-4 tells why John is put into prison.

Who are the 5 disciples called to follow Jesus in these 2 passages?

Describe in your own words what you think it means to be a 'fisher of men'?

Why do you think Jesus used this particular phrase?

How did the Lord call you out to be a 'fisher of men' here this summer?

What do you find interesting or challenging as you read the first passage?

Read Exodus chapter 12 and explain how Jesus becomes our Passover Lamb:

Spend some time quietly reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice for you personally, thanking Him and acknowledging what He's done.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 8

### Day 1

Read Mark chapter 15

This week, there will be few questions and a lot of time for reflection and thinking as we bring summer to a close...

As you read this chapter, what are the symbolic events that take place: (things prophesied about, things representing what God was doing for mankind, etc...)

Mark gives a very succinct telling of the Passion time, you can check out the other gospels for more details...

Tax collectors were Jewish people who worked for the Roman government collecting taxes from the Jews. They often collected more than they were required, extorting money from their own countrymen and were despised as a result.

Why do you suppose Jesus would choose such a person to follow Him?

Explain 2:17 in your own words:

How does this relate to your ministry here this summer?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

Week 1  
Day 3

Read Mark 1:21-45 & 2:1-12

What strikes you the most as you read through these miracles?

Why do you think Jesus would not let the demons speak about Him?

What does it mean for you to hear Jesus' words as though He had authority in your life?

What gives Jesus the authority in your life?

Verses 21-34 seem to speak about the events of one day. Reminds me of a day at camp J. Why is vs. 35 significant?

How does the man with leprosy demonstrate his faith in Jesus?

Can you relate a situation where you suffered for doing good?

How did you respond?

Write out some specific sins in your life for which Jesus suffered unjustly....

Spend some time offering thanks as well as submitting to the Spirit for change.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 7 Day 5

Read Mark 14:43-65 and Luke 22:49-51

Why do you think the disciples are so motivated to action now, when just moments ago they could not stay awake to pray?

How are you like this?

How do you think it impacted the guard who was healed to be among those capturing Jesus?

Not that Jesus has minced words before, but it has to really stir the waters when He is silent until His statements in vs. 62- why does this get such a reaction?

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

What is the example for us to follow here?

Is there a situation in your life right now where this is poignantly applicable?

In the healing of the paralytic, whose faith is rewarded?

How are these friends a picture of your job here this summer?

Do you believe in miracles? Do you think things like this still happen today?

Describe a recent miracle in your life:

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 1 Day 4

Read Mark 2:18-22, Matthew 6:16-18 and Zechariah 7:1-14

Compare what Jesus says about fasting in these 2 passages:

Mark:

Matthew:

From Matthew, I would say that Jesus assumes fasting will be a part of our lives- why is this?

How should we fast, according to Matthew?

What would be the purposes of fasting?

According to the Zechariah passage, why does the Lord condemn their fasts?

What is the explanation Jesus gives for their sluggardliness?

How have you found it to be true that your flesh is weak- what areas are the weakest for you?

Why do we need to recognize these areas clearly?

What can you do today to begin to make your flesh submit to Godliness?

Read Zechariah 4:6- what is our source of strength?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 7 Day 4

Read Mark 14:32-42

How do the disciples completely miss where Jesus is at right now?

What is especially sad about this?

If you have seen The Passion of the Christ, no doubt the scenes from that are entrenched as you read this....

What strikes you about Christ's prayer?

Why do you think He goes back a second and third time to pray the same thing (vs. 39, 41)?

Do you think Jesus' expectation of the disciples is realistic?

Jesus seems to be pleading with them~ do they change?

He connects their fasting with the actions in their lives~ what actions prove their fasting to be a farce?

What should grow in our lives as we fast (or practice any spiritual discipline)?

If you have fasted in the past, what benefits have you seen in your life?

Fasting, as with the other disciplines, does not bring a guarantee of growth...they put our hearts in a place to grow.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 1 Day 5

Read Mark 2:23-27, and 3:1-6

Overall, sum up what you think Jesus is saying regarding the Sabbath:

Read Exodus 20:8-11 and 31:12-17

How is observing the Sabbath a sign between God and us?

Why do you think the Sabbath is so important to God?

How does Jesus' teaching expand on what is taught in the OT about the Sabbath?

In chapter 3, Jesus seems to purposely rile things up...why do you think He would do this?

(It is my theory~ and we shall check it out as we read Mark, that Jesus moves from place to place stirring up the waters for people, riling things up, etc...)

Read Luke 22:54-62

What interesting fact does this account give us that the Mark passage does not?

How do you think this impacts Peter?

When Jesus 'looks' at you~ sees the worst you have~ what do you fear Him seeing?

What is His response to our worst?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 7 Day 3

Read Mark 14:12-31, 66-72

What strikes you about Jesus' instructions regarding the Passover dinner?

Speculate on some of Jesus' thoughts during this meal...

Why do you think Jesus tells them that they will all fall away for a time?

Are you ever like Peter- making great boasts of how you will follow the Lord?

Has there been a time in your life when you felt that you fell away from following the Lord?

What do you consider to be 'work' ...that would be prohibited on the Sabbath?

Do you consider the Sabbath to be a specific day, i.e. Sunday, or is any day OK? Is it an entire 24-hour period?

Spend some time asking the Lord to show you your priorities in this area.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 2 Day 1

Read Mark 3:7-19

As we have read these first few chapters, how does Jesus' life strike you?

Why do you think He attempted to withdraw with His disciples?

Picture yourself in Jesus' shoes- people pushing to be close to you, shoving, (pushing and shoving....), crowding you, touching you- how would you feel?

Even though it seems to be Jesus' intent to withdraw for a bit- how does He respond to the crowds that burst in?

How do you respond when your plans are thwarted? (not thwacked, but thwarted)

What purpose does Jesus have in appointing the 12?

In what ways is it hard for you to have good boundaries, knowing when to meet and need and when to hold back?

What do you think sends Judas over the edge to betray Jesus?

Has there been a time when you can say that you lavished love on the Lord?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 7 Day 2

Read Mark 14:1-11, John 12:1-11 and Matthew 26:8

The Passover was celebrated with an evening dinner followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which lasted the next 8 days.

As we see the events of this chapter unfold, it becomes obvious that things are happening on God's timetable- not the religious leaders'.

How did Jesus come to be having dinner at this man's home?

Do we have a clue as to who this woman is?

As you read all three of the passages, who was indignant over this 'waste' and extravagance?

Why does Jesus applaud her actions?

In vs. 7- does Jesus seem to be callous to the poor?

What do you see as significant in the statement "He called to Him those He wanted" .....

Once they are called, how do the 12 respond?

Has there been a time for you when you know Jesus has called you somewhere, and you have not gone to Him? Write out when....

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 2 Day 2

Read Mark 3:20-34

How do the crowds impact Jesus this time?

Why do you think His family responds as they do?

Beezlebug, it says in the NIV Study notes, is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Baal-Zebub ("lord of flies"), a parody on and mockery of the actual epithet, Baal-Zebul (meaning Exalted Baal, or Prince Baal). The name came to be used of Satan.

What are the teachers of the law saying about Jesus?

What stern warning does He give them?

How would even this warning enrage them further?

Read 2 Kings 17 for the end of the story about Israel's long infatuation with other gods...

Why is it good for us to have an understanding of what will take place as the end approaches?

What does it look like for us to be alert/or to watch in these times?

What is our comfort as we think about facing these times? How does this comfort keep us strong?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 7**  
**Day 1**

Read Mark 13 and Matthew 24

List out the things Jesus says will happen prior to His return:  
(as it is a long list, please site verses).

What strikes you from this chapter?

Why do you think Jesus responds to His family as He does?

How is this again stirring the waters?

What encouragement do His words offer to you and I?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 2 Day 3

Read Matthew 4:1-20

List the 4 places the seed falls and what you believe they represent:

What makes a person have 'ears to hear'?

How can you discern who around you has these ears?

Who are 'the outsiders'? Can you always assume they are the unbelievers?

This quote in vs. 12 comes from Isaiah chapter 6- read this chapter for some background. Isaiah was sent to the Southern Kingdom of Judah to warn against the coming doom of their exile.

How were the people Isaiah was sent to similar to the masses of people Jesus spoke to?

Also, read Matthew 13:14-17 for a fuller quote.

Think through the campers you have seen this week, can you identify those with 'ears to hear'?

Spend some time right now praying and asking God to show you  
How are you doing at loving Him.....

How are you doing at loving others....

Write out anything He says to you....

How, practically, can you be like the widow who gave all she had?

From these verses and 10:21, do you think God is really concerned about getting all our money?

What is He after?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 6 Day 5

Read Mark 12:28-44

A teacher of the Law had recovered from the defeat in 11 27-28 and returns with another tricky question.

There were 613 commands in the OT. The Jewish leaders attempted to divide these into 'big' and 'little' commands....

How do we today divide what God wants us to do into important/not so important....

What sins tend to fall into the 'not so important' category?

Why is it necessary for us to see all our sins as equally grievous to God?

The teacher in this story seems genuinely interested. Matthew records this incident from a different slant in 22:34-40.

How do these 2 commands sum up all the others?

Should you respond differently to them?

How does Jesus respond differently to His disciples?

What do you think could cause someone to produce a different size crop- 30, 60 or 100fold?

What are things in your life that might prevent you from producing 100 fold?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 2 Day 4

Read Mark 4:21-34

Explain in your own words vs. 21-23:

Vs. 24-25:

Explain in real terms what the kingdom is like according to vs. 26-29:

What is the miracle that happens in these verses?

How have you seen this happen in your service here?

What clues tell you someone is ripe to be harvested?

How is the kingdom explained in vs. 30-32?

How can this parable be used to describe the growth that takes place in our lives?

What are some interesting things we learn about heaven from Jesus' answer to their ridiculous question?

Jesus sharply rebukes them initially for their lack of knowledge of the scriptures as well as the power of God. (I am sure this angered them) Where do you feel that you are lacking in your knowledge of the word?

Why is knowledge of the word vital for us as believers?

What practical steps can you take to increase your scriptural literacy?

Ask the Lord to help you increase your understanding of Him through His word.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 6 Day 4

Read Mark 12:13-27

It struck me as funny that since the teachers, elders and chief priests could not trap Him (11:27) they now send in the Pharisees and Herodians (influential Jews who supported the Roman government through the rule of Herod).

Why is their question potentially very damaging to Jesus?

In vs. 12 it says that they were afraid of the crowd and their allegiance to Jesus. How would these public questions possibly hurt Jesus' standing with the masses?

How do vs. 16-17 impact the way that we live today? What command is there for us?

So the Pharisees fail and the Sadducees enter the fight. Sadducees were the Jewish party that represented the wealthy and sophisticated. They were small in number but exerted a lot of political power. They denied resurrection from the dead and only accepted Moses first 5 books as authoritative.

How do the campers benefit from this in you?

What are some things in your spiritual life right now that seem like parables, that you would like Jesus to explain to you?

In what is being taught this week at camp, what might the 'parable' like things be for the campers?

Pray that you have time to sit and explain everything as Jesus did.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 2

### Day 5

Read Mark 4:35-41

(Chapters 4-5 appear to be the same day~ see what you think....Jesus certainly had a full schedule J)

Why do you think Jesus rebukes the disciples so sternly?

What about this picture shows Jesus' humanity?

What evidence that might answer the disciples question in vs. 41 has there been in these first 4 chapters? List out with verses...

A book I read suggested this response when confronted by someone: Thank you for the rebuke. I am sure that I deserved it. Will you please remember, my friend, to pray for me in this....

Are you willing to be a 'watchman' for someone else?

If you have no one who routinely holds you accountable for sin in your life, pray now that the Lord will lay someone on your heart for this task. Ask them this week to help you in this.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 6**  
**Day 3**

Read Psalm 104

What stands out to you as you read:

Read Mark 12:1-12

How would these words of Jesus stir the waters for the religious authorities? What accusation is He making?

Read Psalm 104 a second time, slowly, meditating on the power of the Lord to control/create all we see around us.

What gives us the clue that they understood His meaning?

Has the Lord sent anyone into your life that brings His messages to you?

How do you respond when confronted with sin you need to deal with?

Why is it essential to have these 'watchtower' people in our lives?  
Ezekiel 3:16-19

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 3 Day 1

Read Mark 5:1-20

What strikes you about this demon-possessed man?

From this story, what clue are we given as to the inhabitants of this region- Jew or Gentile?

Why is this significant?

What do you think motivated Jesus to come across the lake to this man when He only remains a short time?

What things do we learn about demons from this passage?

Why do you think the people pleaded with Jesus to leave the region?

Do these verses describe your experience in prayer- or does this seem far away?

Pray as the father in 9:25 that God will expand your faith to grab hold of this promise.

11:27 begins a series of tests the religious authorities pose to Jesus- hang on as we listen to His often abrasive answers.

Why do you think Jesus doesn't give the elders, chief priests and teachers a straight answer?

From your reading thus far- who gets a straight answer from Jesus?

How is He wise in His dialogue with them?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 6 Day 2

Read Mark 11:12-14 and 11:20-33

Why do you think Jesus curses the fig tree? Does it seem harsh?

As an aside- Peter seems so surprised to see the tree withered and Jesus takes the opportunity (again) to reinforce the need for faith...

What does Jesus promise in vs. 23-25?

How believable is this promise? Does this promise stir the water for you?

How do we, as believers today, weaken this promise by putting conditions on it?

What are the conditions we sometimes place on this incredible promise?

The man naturally wants to remain with Jesus who had set him free- why does Jesus want him to remain where he is?

How is it hard for you to be a witness in your home, with your family?

Spend some time right now praying for your immediate family.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 3 Day 2

Read Mark 5:21-43 and Leviticus 15:25-33

What is amazing about Jairus request of Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus goes with Him immediately?

What value does Jesus place on faith in this passage? - be specific.

Jesus takes the 3 disciples with Him - how has He answered their question in 4:41?

How has Jesus given us similar power?

During the walk to the ruler's house a woman touches Jesus, and she is healed.

Again, what does Jesus commend in her?

Do vs. 15-16 cause you any trouble with your picture of Jesus - He is very angry...?

From Isaiah 56:6-7, God promises a place for the Gentiles to worship Him. The marketplace was set up in the court of the Gentiles - thus depriving them of a place to worship as well as the fleecing of their finances that went on.

Can you think of a time in your life when Godly anger was very appropriate....

How hard is it to respond well in anger? Why is it hard?

Where and when has God ordained worship for Himself here at camp?

Pray and ask that God would give you a zeal to see the places/times He has set aside for worship here at camp remain holy and set apart. Seeing God's wrath is often hard to reconcile with the Sunday School version of a 'nice God' we have been taught. For some OT descriptions of God's anger and punishment of the Jews you can read Ezekiel 22 and Jeremiah 44 (esp. vs. 27)

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 6 Day 1

Read Mark 11:1-19

As you read vs. 1-11, what attributes of God (Jesus) stand out?

How does He particularly demonstrate His sovereignty?

Think back over last week, what things seemed like a coincidence at the time, but were evidence of God's working things together for His purposes?

What is amazing about His entry into Jerusalem?

When it says in vs. 11 "He looked around at everything...", what might He have been thinking?

From Leviticus, what is amazing in this woman's actions?

How welcome would she feel in this crowd?

Is there something in your life that has plagued you for years that you would like to be freed from?

Ask a friend to pray with you today.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 3 Day 3

Read Mark 6:1-6 and 14-29

From vs. 1-6, why do you think Jesus says that He 'could not' do many miracles there?

How is His going to the synagogue to preach again stirring the water for these people? What might they be pondering?

Why do you think faith is such an essential channel for God to work through?

How have you seen this to be true?

From 14-29, what do we learn about Herod?

How does he abdicate his responsibility to lead as a man in the relationship with Herodias?

How do you think Herod feels about Jesus on the scene?

When you look at the campers God has placed in your path this week, do you love them? (vs.21)

What would help you grow in this?

In what way are you like this young man who is seeking what things to do to please God?

What is one thing that you KNOW God would have you get rid of....why do you not get rid of it?

Would anything change in your life if you really embraced vs. 29-31?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 5 Day 5

Read Mark 10:17-34

Many times you see the Pharisees/teachers of the law ask Jesus questions to trap Him...do you think this man comes with the same intent? Why or why not?

Why do you think Jesus points out that God alone is to be called 'good'?

List the commands the young man professes to have kept:

List the command Jesus omitted from the list: (See Exodus 20)

Since Jesus knows Herod's thoughts, how/why is He stirring the waters for him?

How does this demonstrate God's compassion?  
(For an interesting lesson on God's compassion, read Jeremiah 37-38 and see His compassion for Zedekiah)

How can you practically demonstrate compassion for the campers this week?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 3**  
**Day 4**

Read Mark 6:6-13

What were the disciples allowed to take on their journey?

Why do you think Jesus placed these prohibitions on them?

What do you think it means to shake the dust off your feet?

Have you felt this way at all this summer?

What kinds of things were they to be about?

Compare/contrast your calling this summer with their tasks:

Read Mark 6:30-44

How does Jesus respond when they return with a report?

What is the meaning of the disciples statement in Matthew 10:9?

Why is it good to develop your convictions now about these things?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 5 Day 4

Read Mark 10:1-16

Corresponding passages that may give insight: Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:1-12, Luke 16:18, I Corinthians 7:8-13

Jesus is, yet again, stirring the waters. I am sure this was as debated and issue then as it is today. Take some time, read, pray and develop your convictions today...not in the midst of a situation later.

Write out and note verses (from the above reading) Jesus' statements about **divorce**:

Statements about **remarriage**:

What seems to thwart His plans to relax with the disciples?

How is His response different from theirs?

How do you respond when yet another demand is placed on you during the week here?

What/when is the hardest demand for you?

What do you find significant in Jesus giving the food to the disciples to pass out?

How does he challenge them to move past themselves in this passage?

How have you been challenged in this way this summer?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 3**  
**Day 5**

Read Mark 6:45-56 and Matthew 14:22-34

What are the similarities/differences between these 2 accounts?

Why is it significant that Jesus takes time alone to pray?

What do you think it means that their hearts were hardened? Why are they hardened?

From the Matthew passage, what does Peter's faith enable him to do?

What winds in your life cause you to fear and sink when faith would keep you afloat?

What are the actions of faith that you need? (Peter's action of faith was to not watch the wind)

What serious measures have you taken in the last 6 months to weed out a sin or guard against a sin that creeps in?

Is there some sin you need to take seriously right now?

For extra credit- explain 9:49-50 :)

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 5 Day 3

Read Matthew 9:33-50 and 10:35-45

What did James and John not learn well (10:35-45) the first times Jesus taught it (9:33-37)?

For you- what does it look like to be 'last and the servant of all'? (be very practical- in your job here, the people around you, close to you...)

Think of the people you are 'over' here- what can you do to serve them today?

How can you lead a little one around you into sin?

Why do you think that vs. 43-47 follow vs. 42? What is significant?

Explain Jesus' practical advice in 43-47...

From vs. 54-56, what impresses you?

How is the faith of the people involved in these healings?

What do you think about healing today? Why do we not see it more often?

James 5:16

1 Corinthians 12:9

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Spend some time now praying and asking God for the faith that allows you to see above the winds.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 4 Day 1

Read Mark 7:1-23, Isaiah 29:13 and Leviticus 10:10, Leviticus chapters 11-15 (skim through)

Notice that Jesus is again stirring the waters- rather aggressively this time J

What specifically does Jesus condemn in the Pharisees?

What traditions do we as the 'body' hold to today that are not spelled out in scripture?

Jesus seems to warn about a progression as we hold men's teachings about scripture- neglecting the word (8), setting aside the word (9), then finally nullifying the word (13).

Why are Jesus' words in vs. 15 (and 19) so startling?

Why do you think there was such a focus in the Law on clean vs. unclean? What was God teaching?

Why do you think that Jesus is frustrated with the disciples?

What does He do in vs. 30-31 that shows His tender care for the disciples even though He is frustrated with their lack of faith?

Has the Lord given you someone in your life that has taken you aside from the crowds to teach & disciple you? Write them a note this week to thank them...

What is going on in your life that you need to respond as the father in vs. 24?

What is significant about what Jesus asked Bartimaeus to do (vs.51)?

Why does Jesus say he is healed?

How is this connected to the casting out of the demon in chapter 9?

What do you think God is saying to you today?

## Week 5 Day 2

Read Mark 9:14-32, 10:46-52 and Matthew 17:14-23

What was the scene that Jesus, Peter, James and John came into as they descended the mountain?

Why do you think that the teachers of the law were arguing with the disciples?

How does the crowd respond to Jesus?

When is the last time you were overwhelmed with Jesus?

How can we 'run to greet Him'?

Why does it seem that the disciples were not able to cast the demon out?

Do you think Jesus really means that 'everything is possible' with belief?

Are there things that come out of you that startle you? (words, thoughts, actions, etc...)

Why is it important to acknowledge these things before God?

Do you have someone in your life that you acknowledge these things to? Who is it?

How does not acknowledging and dealing with this sin lead to vain worship that does not honor God? (vs. 6-7)

A friend once told me that accountability is so essential because we become more careful about our actions as we are required to voice them out loud- we learn a more Godly fear of the Father we cannot see as we are called into account by the person we do see in front of us.

Spend some time praying and asking God to reveal those things inside of you that need to be addressed.

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 4**  
**Day 2**

Read Mark 7:24-30 along with Matthew 15:21-28

Why is Jesus so slow to respond to this woman?

What do you notice about the woman's way of addressing Jesus? (her use of the term 'Lord' in vs. 28 is the only time it is used in this Gospel)

In Matthew, why do you think the disciples urged Him to send her away?

Explain Jesus' illustration in today's words:

How does this woman demonstrate her faith in Jesus' ability to heal her daughter?

How do you think this encounter would impact the disciples faith?

As you think back on the life of both Elijah and Moses, what are some traits of theirs that you admire?

Has there ever been a time when you felt that God revealed His glory to you~ relate this story:

Ask God to give you a glimpse of his glory today that your faith might increase.

*What do you think God is saying to you today?*

## Week 5 Day 1

Read Mark 9:2-13

Skim 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 2 for the ministry of Elijah and the book of Exodus for the ministry of Moses

Michael Card writes the following about Moses and the transfiguration:

*He ate the bread of heaven, drank water from a rock, and the grumbling children followed like a misbegotten flock.*

*He climbed up on a mountain they couldn't even touch, who'd have known that one encounter could have ever meant so much.*

*And up upon that high place in a cleft of solid stone, his face was set on fire as the God of glory shone. He alone had seen it and had lived to tell the tale. But because they feared the fire he had to hide behind a veil.*

*He was the bread from heaven, He would be the smitten Rock, He had 12 confused disciples, they were His bewildered flock.*

*When He climbed upon the mountain He took Peter, James and John.*

*In the face of pending glory, they soon began to yawn.*

*As He prayed while they were sleeping He was transfigured into light. His face a flash of lightning, His clothes so burning bright. So Moses finally saw the face before he'd hidden from. Then came a voice from heaven, 'this is My beloved Son.'*

Why do you think (speculation) that it is Elijah and Moses that come to talk with Jesus?

How does Jesus' initial refusal to heal her daughter demonstrate His submission to the Father's purpose for Him?

How does clearly knowing your mission/calling help you as you serve?

What would you say that you are called to this summer?

Have you ever turned down an opportunity to serve when you knew it was not what God had for you right then, relate this time:

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 4**  
**Day 3**

Read Mark 7:31-37 and 8:22-26 along with  
Isaiah 35:5-6

List the similarities about these situations/miracles?

Why do you think Jesus takes both of these people away from the crowd?

What is significant about the role of the 'friends' in this story?

These friends knew 2 important things-  
what required healing  
where to find the healing

How would Jesus' statements in vs. 34-38 again stir the waters for His disciples?

Explain 9:1 in your own words:

What do you think God is saying to you today?

**Week 4**  
**Day 5**

Read Mark 8:27-38 and 9:1, Matthew 16:13-20 and Psalm 22

How does Peter again demonstrate that he has not really learned that Jesus was the Christ even though he said it out loud.

What would the disciples have learned from Psalm 22 that would help prepare them for the upcoming events?

Why do you think Jesus rebukes Peter so sharply?

What is the lesson in this for us?

How do we develop more of a mind to know “the things of God” vs. “the things of men”?

What is hard for you to deny yourself?

As you look at the campers around you this week, what can you see that they need healed from? (be specific)

How can you help take them to Jesus?

Do you have friends that help you see where you need to be healed?  
How can you cultivate these kinds of friendships?

*What do you think God is saying to you today?*

## Week 4 Day 4

Read Mark 8:1-21

Last week we read an account of a similar situation. Based on this previous reading, what strikes you about the disciple's responses?

How is Jesus patient with them?

Again Jesus asks them to distribute the food and collect the leftovers. What should this teach them?

Has there been a time when you have seen a similar situation come back at you and you knew that the Lord wanted to reinforce a lesson? Relate this:

Since Jesus is omniscient (all knowing), why is it funny that He uses yeast as an illustration?

It seems that He is again stirring the pot for them as He challenges their concern about not having bread.

As patient as He was earlier, why is He now frustrated with them?

What things you are slow to learn that Jesus may be saying to you "do you still not understand?"

When have you seen the Lord move in a miraculous way?

What did you learn about Him from this experience?

What do you think God is saying to you today?