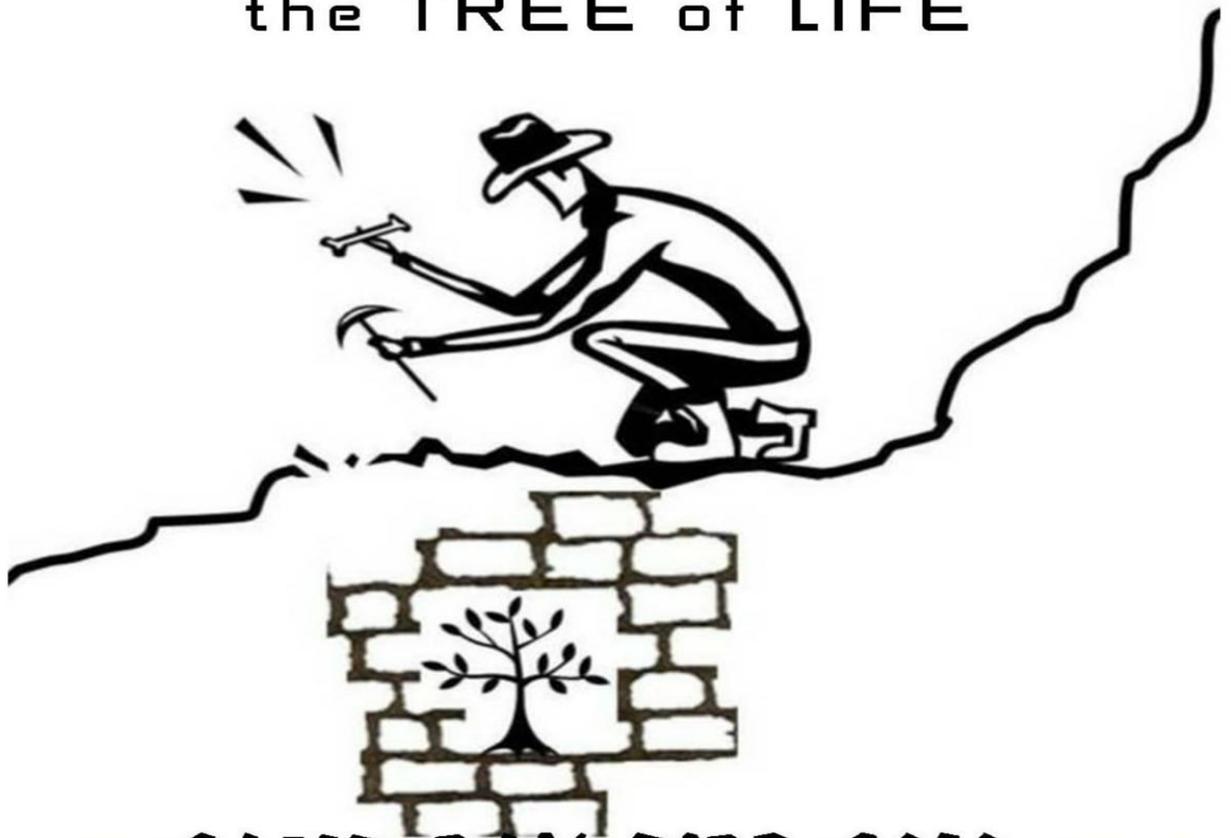


ED AND ANNA JONES

and the SEARCH for
the TREE of LIFE



CAMP RAY BIRD 2010

Welcome

Welcome to the 2010 CRB Summer Staff. Together we will be working to glorify Christ by serving the campers, serving each other and growing in godliness as the summer progresses.

As we encourage the campers to search for the real life found only in a relationship with Christ, we also need to continue to pursue that life for ourselves. This summer will offer abundant opportunities to grow through reading/meditating on the word, memorizing scripture, prayer, time alone with God, sharpening time with your covenant group, serving when it is hard/hot/tiring, and living in community with the other staff that will provide opportunity to work through conflict.

Our prayer as the full time staff & leadership staff is that you would “mine all the experiences” you are given by the Lord this summer to allow Him to transform you more into His likeness and prepare you for continuing to fulfill His great commission as you leave here.

We want you to daily work on these devotions. That you give yourself to prayer... that you ask questions as you have them...that you eagerly anticipate what the Lord is going to do in & through you this summer.

We are excited to serve alongside you!

Mike, Shawn & Susan
Joel & Bekah
Christopher, Kara, Kayla, Katie, Brady, Kashi & Alyssa

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Monday

This summer we are going to travel with the early church through the books of Ephesians & Colossians. For some history, we will, on the weekends & during this first week, read through the book of Acts and take some short tours through some of the other Epistles. All in all, we will cover a lot of New Testament ground in the next 9 weeks!

Read Luke 24:36-53 & Acts chapters 1-2

What stands out to you as interesting?

Why is Luke so specific as he explains the evidence of Christ rising from the dead?

Based on what you know about Peter, what is significant about the role he steps into in these chapters? (you can also check out Luke 22 for some background)

Why do you think God chose the initial giving of the Holy Spirit to be so dramatic?

What is the essence of Peter's message?

How is it similar to our message here?

How does the end of chapter 2 compare to your church or our body here this summer?

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Tuesday

Read Acts chapter 3-4

What strikes you from the encounter between the beggar and Peter & John?

How do you feel when approached by a beggar/the poor/obviously needy?

How does this situation give Peter & John another opportunity to speak to the crowd?

When have you capitalized or leveraged an ordinary situation and turned it into an opportunity to share about Christ?

Why do you think that Luke points out that the leaders in the Sanhedrin saw Peter & John as 'ordinary' and 'unschooled'? How does that encourage you?

What is the most difficult situation you have faced as a result of your faith?

This passage talks again about new believers being added to the fellowship of the early church- does this happen at your church? Why or why not do you think?

When you see the example at the end of chapter 4 of the life of the early church, how do you see this reflected in today's church (yours or another's)?

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Wednesday

Read Acts chapters 5-7, including 8:1

What strikes you from these chapters? Confuses you?

Why do you think God chooses such an extreme discipline for Ananias & Sapphira?

What do we know about Stephen's character from the passage?

What might we infer about him from his responses?

Summarize Stephen's statements as he spoke before the Sanhedrin:

How do you think Stephen was able to speak so fearlessly?

In hindsight we can see how God used Stephen's death to scatter the believers and spread the message. How do you think those new believers in Jerusalem felt about his death? What would they have struggled with?

Spend some time praying and asking the Lord for a fearless and accurate message as you serve here this summer and are scattered in the fall....

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Thursday

Read Acts chapters 8-9

How does the Holy Spirit lead us ? How do we hear His voice?

Based on the story about Philip- describe what you think he is like:

Has you ever felt the Holy Spirit nudge you to talk to someone? Describe what happened:

Can you describe your conversion experience; or if you were to young- can you describe how the Lord is active in your life today?

Why do you think God blinded Saul and had him fast for 3 days?

Have you ever fasted? If yes- why? Describe the experience:

Saul receives help from several older (in the faith) believers- who has helped you along the way?

Who can you help along in their faith?

Peter heals Dorcas so miraculously- why do you think some people are healed while others suffer & die?

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Friday

Read Acts chapters 10-11

What main point do you think God is making in these 2 chapters?

What makes Cornelius such a cool guy?

How does Peter's treatment of the messenger show that he was taking in the vision he received from God?

How have you seen that God does not show favoritism?

How is favoritism shown in the Christian groups you are involved with? (church, youth group, bible study, etc...)

Ask God in prayer to show you areas where you show favoritism to others.

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 12 & skim the book of James

I think it is cool that though Herod tried to stamp out the message, he was stamped out by God (imagine how horrible to be eaten by worms until you die...).

Chose one section in James and list the commands it gives in a particular area:

In the section you chose, what area of your life is being addressed and needs to change?

Spend some concentrated time praying today for the summer, pray through the staff, for clarity in the message, for the weather, etc...
Remember, Elijah was a man just like us...

Review your memory verses

Colossians 1:15-16a

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created:

Staff Training: Sunday

Read Acts chapter 13

How did the early church know that it was Barnabas and Saul they were to send off?

When you face a large decision- what is your process of deciding?

How did you know that this is where God intended for you to serve this summer?

After reading this passage, why do you think it is important to study & know what the Bible says?

Why do you think Luke points out in verse 50 that it was the women who incited the trouble/persecution against Saul & Barnabas? How can women/girls, in particular, stir up trouble?

If you are a girl- spend some time asking the Lord to show you quickly if you are bent to stir up trouble, be open to His probing. If you are a guy- pray for your sisters!

Review your memory verses

Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Monday

Read Ephesians 1:1-6

- Verse 3 says that we have been blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. What does that mean for us as Christians?

- What are some of the blessings you receive? V3-14.

- How does being chosen and predestined for adoption affect how you view being a child of God?

- Why has God chosen you according to verse 6?

Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Tuesday

Read Ephesians 1:7-10

- Read v7 and compare it to Colossians 1:13-14
how does Colossians help you understand what Christ has done?

- What mystery of God's will is made known to us? V9

- How are "all things united in Him"? v10, also see Colossians 1:16-17, Mark 1:15 and Philippians 2:10.

- Why is unity important? How do you experience unity in Christ?

- How does being united as a staff under God, help you get through the tough days/situations that confront you at camp?

Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Thursday

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

- Paul is thankful for the Ephesians faith in Christ and for their love for the saints. How are these two things connected? How do they enhance each other?

- What does Paul pray for the Ephesians to be given in verse 17?

- Write verses 16-20 in your own words.

- Verses 22-23 say that Christ was given to the church/the body as head over all things to fill all things. How do Christians experience this?

- Are there any Christians that you know that you could pray these things for as Paul does?

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Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Friday

Read Ephesians chapter 1 (all)

- Give this chapter a title in your own words.

- What are some key points of the chapter?

- What have you learned about God from this chapter?

- What is one idea that you can take from this chapter and use in your every day life?

- What are some things you can pray about growing in personally or for others that you have learned from studying this chapter?

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 14

In Lystra, what can you learn from Paul & Barnabas' response to the praise of men? (remember Herod's response earlier)

Interesting to note that Saul has now become Paul- in what ways do you change when you are relating with different people for the benefit of the gospel?

What are some positives as well as negatives with the ability to change to suit your circumstances?

What do you think happens to Paul in vs. 19-20?

Seems like they preach, they get persecuted, they preach, they get persecuted....what are some of the ways that they respond to their persecution?

Paul paid an enormous price for his faith and testimony- what risks are there for you in living for Christ?

Review your memory verses

Colossians 4:3-4

³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Week 1: Sunday

Read through the book of Galatians

Next weekend we are going to read Acts 15- the council that met to discuss Paul's concerns brought up in this book. We learn in the beginning of Acts 15 that Paul was angry over the teaching that a person could not be saved unless they were circumcized according to the Jewish custom.

What are issues Paul brings up throughout Galatians?

What would you say is the overall theme of the book?

Where do you adhere to man-made rules thinking that they make you more pleasing to God?

Explain verse 5:1 to a friend today- (how can we be become slaves again?)

Explain also what you think freedom means in this context:

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Week 2: Monday

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

- What does it mean to be dead in your sins?

- Would your opinion of “worldly” living change if you called it “following the Devil” as in v2? Do you think this fact is largely ignored in Christian circles?
 - Who are the sons of disobedience?

- Write about a time that you remember being controlled by the passions of the flesh and then write a time when God’s work in you helped you control the flesh. What made the difference?

- What does this passage say to the phrase, “mankind is ultimately good, but has been corrupted”.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Week 2: Tuesday

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

- Write vs. 4-5 in your own words.

- Why has Christ made us alive with Him?

- Vs 8-9 tell us that we are saved by grace not by works of our own. In what other times (other than when you were saved) has God shown His grace and love to you just because He is God and not based on your own merit?

- Is our work for God worthless?

- Is there good work that God has prepared for you that you have been neglecting or avoiding?

- Does God help you do the things He has prepared for you to do? Colossians 1:10-11

- How are we supposed to serve Him? Ps 100:1-5

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Week 2: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 15

How is this dispute a good example of resolving conflict for us?

Does it really seem like it was the backdoor to intimacy?

What are the three constraints that the council wants the Gentiles to follow?

Explain why these 3- in your opinion:

In order to be able to recognize errors in what you are being taught- what do you need to know?

How can you determine, when you believe someone has spoken incorrectly about the bible, when you should confront or when it is not a big deal?

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Week 2: Sunday

Read Acts chapter 16

After Paul has explained in Galatians and just gone to the council in chapter 15 about not needing to be circumcised- why do you think he has Timothy circumcised? Inconsistent?

Throughout college, while in Campus Crusade, we would often share our faith with other students. We would recite the quote “share the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God”. How does verse 14 confirm this philosophy?

How can this be an encouragement to you this summer?

What do you think motivates Paul & Silas to sing hymns?

What miracle(s) does God bring about as a result of their faith?

How is the jailer’s (and his family) response further evidence that God does the real saving work?

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Monday

Read Ephesians 3:1-6

- Why is Paul in prison? Acts 22:22-30 and if you want, Acts 23 for more of the story.

- What mystery was made known to Paul? V2-3 and 6, story in Acts 22:1-21.

- Read Romans 11:11-24 what is the appropriate response for the Gentile to the mystery that has been revealed?

- Has God abandoned the Jewish people?

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Tuesday

Read Ephesians 3:7-9

- Paul was given God's grace and power to minister to the Gentiles. Are modern-day Christians given any of these things to help us witness for Him?

- Paul says he is the least of all the saints. What about his testimony helps us understand why he felt this way?

- Have you ever felt inadequate to do something for the Lord?

- Who are some other famous bible characters that felt like the "least" of all?

- Why do you think God chose to use these types of people?

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Wednesday

Read Ephesians 3:10-13

- How does the church show the manifold wisdom of God? V10

- What is the difference between approaching God in the Old Testament and the New Testament (today)? Give an example of each from the bible.

- What does Paul mean when he says he is suffering for the Ephesians glory? V13.

- Can you remember a time when you suffered for the good (especially spiritual good) of another person?

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Thursday

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

- Write Paul's prayer in vs 14-21 in your own words.

- If you were an Ephesian Christian how would reading this prayer influence you?

- Write your own prayer for someone you would want God to help in the same way.

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Friday

Read Ephesians chapter 3 (all)

- Give this chapter a title in your own words.

- What are some key points of the chapter?

- What have you learned about God from this chapter?

- What is one idea that you can take from this chapter and use in your every day life?

- What are some things you can pray about growing in personally or for others that you have learned from studying this chapter?

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 17

Explain in your own words why the Bereans had more noble character than the Thessalonians?

How does this relate to you today? (or perhaps tomorrow as you sit in church)

What type of idol worship is around us in our society today?

What is your response to it? (see Paul's in vs. 16)

How is Paul shrewd in his speaking to the Athenians?

What might help you to be more shrewd as you share here and in your "after camp" world?

List everything learned about God in vs. 24-31: What speaks to you the most?

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 4:22

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Week 3: Sunday

Read 1 Thessalonians

For each chapter; write out Paul's main ideas & the imperatives (commands). I like the word imperative better than command as it implies (to me) a greater urgency 😊

Chapter 1:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 4

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 2

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 5:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 3:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Review your memory verses

Based on our reading in Acts- do you see anything Paul has written here that addresses concerns written about in Acts?

Ephesians 4: 29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Week 4: Tuesday

Read Ephesians 4:7-16

- Who are the captives in v8? Also read Psalm 68:18.

- o Albert Barns' Notes on the Bible explains, "It is language derived from a conqueror who not only makes captives but who makes captives of those who were then prisoners, and who conducts them as a part of his triumphal procession. He not only subdues his enemy but he leads his captives in triumph."
 - o
 - Is verse 9 saying that Christ went to hell?

- What is the role of the leaders of the church?

- What is the role of the saints (or general people) of the church?

- Write v14-15 in your own words.

Ephesians 4: 29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Week 4: Thursday

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

- Why is it so important to put off lying and speak truth to each other? (especially with other believers)

- Why does letting anger settle inside you give the Devil an opportunity?

- Write v29 in your own words. How would this help unity among the staff this summer?

- How does it affect you to know the Holy Spirit can be grieved by you?
 - Make a list from vs31-32
 - o Things to put away/ Things to put on

Ephesians 4: 29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Week 4: Friday

Read Ephesians chapter 4 (all)

- Give this chapter a title in your own words.

- What are some key points of the chapter?

- What have you learned about God from this chapter?

- What is one idea that you can take from this chapter and use in your every day life?

- What are some things you can pray about growing in personally or for others that you have learned from studying this chapter?

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Ephesians 4: 29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Week 4: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 18

What is encouraging about Priscilla & Aquila from this chapter? If you had to describe their character, how would you do it?

I love that God comes to Paul in vs. 9 to encourage him to not be afraid. What tasks that you believe God has given you causes you some fear?

Share this fear with someone and ask them to pray for/with you about it.

So Priscilla & Aquila encourage Paul in his work; then they encourage Apollos; then Paul encourages many disciples in the region as he travels about....who can you be an encouragement to right now?

Write out some ways you can encourage this person/these people:

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 4: 29

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Week 4: Sunday

Read 2 Corinthians 1-6 For each chapter; write out Paul's main ideas & the imperatives (commands).

Chapter 1:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 4

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 2

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 5:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 3:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 6:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Based on our reading in Acts- do you see anything Paul has written here that addresses concerns written about in Acts?

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Monday

Read Ephesians 5:1-8

- Read Genesis 8:21, Exodus 30:7 and 31:11. How does knowing that you can please God like a fragrant offering affect what you do/say in service for Him?

- Why are the things in v3,4 and 5 “out of place” among believers?

- How do you decide if a rule made by man is “proper” among believers of merely for external appearances of righteousness?

- Write v6-7 in your own words. Does this section address who you pick to have as friends?

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Tuesday
Read Ephesians 5:9-21

- What are some things that are pleasing to the Lord? How do you know this?

- V11 is 2 parts which part is hardest for you- to not participate or expose the darkness? Why?

- What happens when darkness and shamefulness is exposed to light?

- List 3 things this passage mentions about what a person who walks in the light is like.

- Why should we submit to one another? What does this mean?

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Thursday

Read Ephesians 5:25-33

- Write in your own words what Christ did for the church.

- What is meant by the word “church” in this chapter?

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-6. How does this help you understand Ephesians 5:25-27?

- How does a husband’s love or lack of love for his wife reflect what he thinks of God?

- Can an unloving husband or an un-respectful wife reflect the wrong message about God’s relationship with the church?

- Why are lasting marriage and church relationships so rare? What is special about the ones that endure over time?

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Friday

Read Ephesians chapter 5 (all)

- Give this chapter a title in your own words.

- What are some key points of the chapter?

- What have you learned about God from this chapter?

- What is one idea that you can take from this chapter and use in your every day life?

- What are some things you can pray about growing in personally or for others that you have learned from studying this chapter?

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Saturday

Read Acts chapter 19

Explain how you see the differences between what John the Baptist taught and what changed when Jesus came on the scene?

Why do you think Paul is concerned with these disciples understanding the truth about Jesus and receiving the Holy Spirit?

What difference, in a practical way, does the Holy Spirit make in your life?

Throughout all the places Paul preaches why do you think he first heads to the synagogue?

What is his one overall message?

What was the basic problem with the Jews in vs. 13?

Who is really the fuel behind Artemis, Demetrius, and other idols? Why is it important to realize this?

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 5:3

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Week 5: Sunday

Read Acts chapter 20

What are your thoughts about vs. 7-12? 😊

From vs. 13-38 how would you describe Paul to someone?

Do you see in front of you the task God has given you to complete?

How focused are you on the importance of completing that task?

Hopefully you are all involved in church and in a youth group or small group of believers.
What things are Paul concerned about shepherding the flock from?

How can you help be a shepherd to the flock God has you in?

Do you work hard? Do you value hard work? What has shaped you in this area?

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Monday

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

- What is the promise that goes with the commandment in v1? What does this mean in your own words?

- Read Genesis 18:19, Joshua 4:1-7, Deuteronomy 11:19. Why is this teaching of children by parents so important to God?
 - What happened when the Israelites ignored the responsibility to teach their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?
 - How does this passage address the Christians responsibility to disciple other believers?
 -
 -
 - What are you doing to fulfill this responsibility in your life right now?
- Have you ever experienced being taught those things? Take time to thank God for the people that invested in you.

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Tuesday

Read Ephesians 6:5-9

- How can v5-7 be applied to your life now at work or school?

- What is the motivation for obeying your earthly “masters”/bosses/teachers with a sincere heart?

- How should a leaders’ view of God influence the way he or she treats those under him/her?

- How can following these instructions help you be a witness at work/school/camp?

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Thursday

Read Ephesians 6:18-24

- What is Paul asking the Ephesians to do in v18-20?

- Have you ever felt that you needed courage from God to speak out for Him? What happened?

- Paul's continual prayers for others while in jail (and worse) are amazing. How can we learn to focus on the needs of others even as we experience hard circumstances?

- How did Christ show this amazing virtue while He was here on earth?

- o Challenge: pick one of the hardest times in your day at camp and commit to praying a quick silent prayer for someone else during that time for a whole week.

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Friday

Read Ephesians chapter 6 (all)

- Give this chapter a title in your own words.

- What are some key points of the chapter?

- What have you learned about God from this chapter?

- What is one idea that you can take from this chapter and use in your every day life?

- What are some things you can pray about growing in personally or for others that you have learned from studying this chapter?

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Saturday

Read Acts chapters 21-23

Has there been a decision in your life that you stand by even though others do not understand or agree?

Why do you think Paul chooses to share his own story instead of just sharing the gospel?

Have you thought through your own story of salvation and how God is currently at work in your life so that you are able to share effectively with someone about Christ?

Find someone and trade stories sometime this weekend- I double dog dare you! Work to include the gospel elements in your own story...

Some things to think through:

When you realized that sin did separate you from God (even if you were saved as a child, there came a point when you realized deeply that you had a struggle with sin)...

How did you come to understand Christ's death & resurrection and what it did for you personally...

What it means to you today to have the Holy Spirit reside in you and guide you...

Who are some people (unbelievers) you can begin to pray that God would give you opportunity to share (list them here):

Review your memory verses

Ephesians 6:10-11

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Week 6: Sunday

Read Acts chapters 24-26

Write out a timeline of events from chapter 23-26:

It cracks me up how Paul has really only 1 message! Why do you think in Paul's message has Felix fearful?

How long does Paul sit in confinement?

What seems different in the way Paul speaks to King Agrippa versus Felix?

How does he tailor his message to the various audiences he has faced? Why is this important?

What are some of the different audiences you face?

As Paul explains his case to King Agrippa- do you think he is more concerned with justice for himself or with his audiences response to the message of salvation? Why do you think this?

Review your memory verses

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[a] your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Monday

Read Colossians 1:1-14

- To whom is this book written?

- What motivation did the church at Colosse have that influenced their faith and love?

- Why might the believers in Colossae need prayers for strength, endurance and patience?

- What does it look like to have patience AND joy? Is this a uniquely Christian ability?

- List the things Paul mentions in this passage that God has done for you/Christians. What does he say our response should be?

- Do you ever have difficulty understanding/grasping the reality of v13? What can you do to help make v13 more real/impacting?

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^a your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Wednesday

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5

- What was Paul's suffering doing for the believers in Colossae?

- Have you as a believer been given any stewardship by God? If so describe.

- V28 says that Paul warned and taught in order to present everyone mature in Christ. What was he warning people about?

- What treasures and riches does this passage talk about? What is it like to be rich the way this passage says?

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[a] your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Thursday

Read Colossians 2:6-23

- How does someone become/stay rooted in Christ?
- How does knowing v9 help the believer when confronted by elements in v8?
 - Write v11-14 in your own words.
- What were some of the problems in the churches mentioned in v16-23?
- Do you see these or some of these problems in modern day churches?
- o Reminder: if you participated in the challenge from wk6 Thursday, how did it influence/not influence you? Did God show you anything during that time?

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[a] your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Friday **Homecoming thoughts**

- How has studying these chapters influenced the way you understand your role in your home or college home church? (review previous wks if you need to)

- List one or two problems you see in your church body.

- According to Ephesians and what we have read in Colossians, what should be your response to the issue(s) in question 2?
 - Challenge: Examine your current (school year) church life. Does it match up with Paul's descriptions? Take time during your devotions (or when ever you have set time aside) to pray about what God wants to see change in your church life when you get home in 2 wks.

Look back over this week's pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Saturday

Read the books of Titus & Philemon

The book of Titus was written late in Paul's ministry- after the events of Acts 28.

For each chapter; write out Paul's main ideas & the imperatives (commands).

Chapter 1:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 2

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 3:

main ideas:

imperatives:

Philemon

main idea:

imperatives:

Using the characters in this book- explain the gospel parallels:

Review your memory verses

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^f your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Week 7: Sunday

Read Acts chapter 27-28

How does Paul's example prepare you to face difficult circumstances?

Paul offers a pretty upbeat message in the midst of the storm. Think about the last really hard time you went through- what was your witness like?

As you think about these last weeks with Paul- what do you admire about his character? What are your favorite traits of his? Why?

Paul has a stern warning for his audience about their hearts becoming calloused and their being unable to hear God's voice. How can you work daily to maintain sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit?

Spend some time asking God to show you areas in your life where you have become calloused. Ask Him to increase your listening ability to the Holy Spirit's voice.

Review your memory verses

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Week 8: Monday

Read Colossians 3:1-11

- How can you do what Paul says in v1-2?
- What is the reason you do them (v3-4)?
- Pick one thing from v5-9 that you personally need to put to death in your life.
- How does v10-11 encourage you to do the work in question 3?
- Can you think of an example from your life or someone you know that God gave new life to after a period of struggling?

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Week 8: Wednesday

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

- Verses 18-23 give Christians commands for every day living. What is the motivation for each command? V23-25.

- Is there a relationship you have with another believer here at camp that needs mending?
 -
 - Would allowing this relationship to remain the way it is serve the Lord?
 - Do you need to do something?
 - How can modern day believers apply Colossians 4:1 to their lives?
- Have you ever experienced (or watched someone experience) working through a hard place in a relationship in order to do what was right in God's eyes? How did this influence you?

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Week 8: Thursday

Read Colossians 4:2-18

- Write verse 2 in your own words.

- Have you ever done this?

- What does it mean to act wisely with outsiders? V5

- Based on what we have learned is there any circumstance that your Christianity should go un-noticed by others?

- Does v6 mean you should always know the right answer to any question an unbeliever asks you?

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Week 8: Friday

Homecoming thoughts

- Many staff members talk about how hard it is to keep having regular time with God once the summer is over and, “real life” begins again. Have you experienced or anticipate experiencing this spiritual slump?

- Why do you think this happens to you?

- What have you learned from studying Ephesians and Colossians that can help you prepare to fight off the slump?

- Does the reality of having daily time with God take work? Does it take planning?
 -
 -
- Make a list of at least 3 things you are going to do to make time with God your #1 priority at home/college.
 - Challenge: Get an accountability partner. Pick someone here at camp who will commit to keeping in touch with you (and you with them) throughout the next school year to help you stay on track with God. Below, write the persons name and how you both plan on staying in touch.

Look back over this week’s pages. What applications do you feel compelled to make? What do you think God wants to change in your life?

Week 8: Saturday

Read the book of Phillipians

Probably written during his imprisonment during Acts 28.

Chapter 1:
main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 2
main ideas:

imperatives:

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Chapter 3

main ideas:

imperatives:

Chapter 4

main ideas:

imperatives:

Review your memory verses

Colossians 3:1-2

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Week 8: Sunday

On Friday, Bekah asked you to make a list of 3 things you are going to do to make your relationship with God a priority as you leave camp.

Write out those 3 things again here:

If you have not asked someone to be your accountability partner in this, I challenge you to find someone today and talk through your 3 commitments.

Review all of your memory verses 😊

Staff Trip: Monday

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-2:13

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul remarks that he is persuaded that Timothy's faith is sincere...what might persuade someone about you that you have a sincere faith?

Give this section a title:

List the imperatives:

What does it mean to guard the deposit that was entrusted to us? (v 14)

As you leave camp and head back to school/life- what does it look like for you to endure hardship...compete as an athlete...or work as hard as a farmer in your spiritual life?

Anything troubling in this passage?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Staff Trip: Tuesday

Read 2 Timothy 2:14- 3:9

Title this section:

List the imperatives:

Does any one thought stand out to you for your life?which one?

Take some time right now to ask the Lord to examine your heart- do you want to put forth the effort it takes to be an 'instrument used for noble purposes'?

What kinds of things need to happen in your life and your heart for this to be a reality? (think through what we have read and done this summer..)

Phillipians 2:12-13 tells us that we work & God works in us- both happen to cause us to grow in faith and glorify Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help your efforts to grow be fruitful and to give you good desires for Him.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Staff Trip: Wednesday

Read 2 Timothy 3:10- the end

Paul charges Timothy to look at his (Paul's) life vs. 10, as well as those he has learned from vs.14.....is there an older or more mature Christian you can enlist to help you grow in your faith? Pray about asking this person to help you.

Their name:

Title this section:

List the imperatives:

How have you seen in your walk with the Lord that the Bible is God breathed?

Why is Paul so concerned with Timothy sticking to sound doctrine? What makes a doctrine sound? How would you know if you were not sticking to sound doctrine?

Take a look back through the entire devotional. Have you seen changes in your life in the areas you believed God prompted you? Where do you sense God is still calling you to grow?

Closing Thoughts

Our prayer for you as you leave this place is that you would continue to pursue Him. He is the only life that satisfies, the only real answer, the only real source of joy & peace. Stay close to Him, continue to read the word daily, spend time in prayer, hide His words in your heart through memorization and find your part of the great commission and do it.

Don't be a sluggard this year. Grow 😊

At Home- Thursday

I am reading...