"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE"
WEEK 2

"RELATIONSHIPS"
WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST"
WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE POWER OF PRAYER" WEEK 5

"OTHER-CENTERED LIVING"

WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION"
WEEK 7

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS"
WEEK 8





Remember the summer before your first year of college? You probably got a tour of campus which included where you were going to be living in the fall. It was either a dormitoryor a Greek house on or close to campus. The tour was probably helpful but compared to what you now know about your place of residence it was woefully inadequate. Your knowledge of a location is totally different when you live or "abide" there. Walking through is not the same as living in. This summer we want you to challenge you to abide in Christ in a whole new way. Maybe you are new to

the Christian life or perhaps you've been a Christian awhile but are you abiding? Believers who "abide in Christ" are a unique breed. There is a fruitfulness to their lives that gives them a deep inner joy and impacts others in their sphere of influence. So how do you become an "Abider"?

Jesus communicated the essence of abiding to his disciples as he met with them the night before he laid down his life on the cross. What would you communicate to your followers if you knew that you would be soon be gone and that they must carry on with your mission? In John chapters 13-17, Jesus communicates his last teachings to his disciples and these words are vital both for them and for us as his followers.

We are going to focus on his words in John 15:1-17. Here abiding is not like living in a building but being a fruit-bearing branch firmly entrenched into the vine. "Abiders" are stubborn in their persistent attachment to Jesus.



READ • After selecting a passage to study, the first step in inductive study is to read and reread the text from a variety of translations.

- 1. Read John 15:1-7 in several translations. (see the 3 pages at the end of this study and/or check out www.biblegateway.com)
 - a. What do you learn about abiding? NIV uses the term 'remain' for 'abide', are any other words used in other translations?

- 2. Abide means "to dwell, sojourn or tarry." Other meanings include: not to depart; to continue to be present; to be held, kept, continually; not to perish, to last, endure; to remain as one, not to become an other or different. What insight do these definitions give you into what Jesus meant when He used the word "abide"?
- 3. Read John 15:1. What does Jesus call Himself and why is this significant? a. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. How does the Lord describe Israel here?
 - b. Read below what Warren Wiersbe tells us about the picture of the vine in Scripture. What further insight does that give you? Why then does Jesus call Himself the "true vine"?



The past vine was the nation of Israel (see Ps. 80:8–19; Isa. 5:1–7; Jer. 2:21; Ezek. 19:10–14; and Hosea 10:1). In an act of wonderful grace, God "transplanted" Israel into Canaan and gave the nation every possible benefit. "What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it?" God asked (Isa. 5:4). If ever a nation had everything it needed to succeed, it was Israel. But the vine produced wild grapes! Instead of practicing justice, it practiced oppression; instead of producing righteousness, it produced unrighteousness and cries of distress from the victims. God had to deal with the nation Israel and chasten it, but even that did not produce lasting results. When God's own Son came to the vineyard, they cast Him out and killed Him (Matt. 21:33–46).

The present Vine is our Lord Jesus Christ, and, of course, the vine includes the branches. He is the "true Vine," that is, "the original of which all other vines are a copy." As Christians, we do not live on substitutes! The symbolism of the Vine and branches is similar to that of the Head and the body: we have a living relationship to Christ and belong to Him.

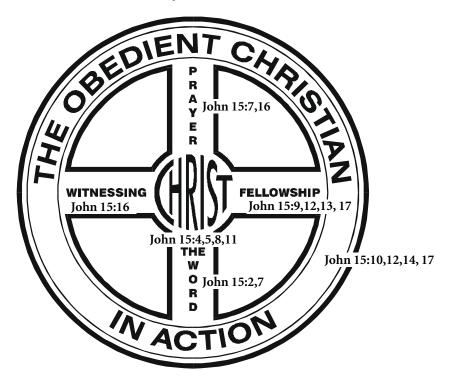
Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible Exposition Commentary Victor Books

4. Read John 15:2,3.

What is the difference between being "cut off" (NIV) or "taken away" (ESV) (See also John 15:6) and being pruned (verse 2)? How is Judas Iscariot an example of a branch that was cut off? (see John 13:21-30)

"Abiding in Christ" Week 1

- b. The word "pruned" in verse 2 and "clean" in verse 3 are the same word in Greek. What is the purpose of pruning and what is the knife that Jesus uses to prune us? (See Hebrews 4:12)
- 5. a. From John 15:2. What is the focus of the Gardener (Vinedresser) (see also verses 4, 5, 8, 16)?
 - b. Notice the progression in these verses, no fruit (vs 2,4) much fruit (vs 5,8) lasting fruit (vs 16) Why is the Gardener so concerned about fruit? What is the fruit that He is looking for? (See Galatians 5:22,23; Colossians 1:6)
- 6. Look at the illustration below, how do you abide or remain in Christ from these verses?



- Many of you will recognize this illustration as The Navigator's Wheel illustration that highlights the basics of living a balanced Christian life. Jesus communicated these same elements as being vital to abiding in Him. Dawson Trotman devised the Wheel illustration to teach believers young and old what was foundational for our growth. You have been given an incredible opportunity this summer to focus on these vital characteristics of an "Abider".

"Abiding in Christ" Week 1

Write out below your desire to grow in each of these six main areas at the Summer Training Program.

a.	Living with Christ as the Center of My Life My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:
b.	Living in Obedience to Christ My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:
с.	Being in Christ's Word My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:
d.	Praying and asking of Christ My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:
e.	Living in loving fellowship My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:
f.	Living as a Witness for Christ My desire:
	My plan to grow in this area:

"Abiding in Christ" Week 1

7.	Further Study: The following passages will give additional understanding:
	John 8:31-32 –
	Colossians 2:6-10 –
	I John 1:5-10 –
	Philippians 3:10 –
	a. How does obedience to God affect your abiding? How does disobedience affect your "abiding"?
	b. How does a personal, daily quiet time enable you to abide?
	c. What role can scripture memory have in this process?
	d. Read the condition that Jesus gave in John 8:31. Why do you think He said this? What promise does in give in John 8:32? How does our "abiding" in His Word give us freedom?



"Fruitfulness is the result of the Son's life being reproduced in a disciple. The disciple's part is to remain. The word remain, a key word in John's theology, is "MENO" which occurs 11 times in this chapter, 40 times in the entire Gospel, and 27 times in John's epistles. What does it mean to remain? It can mean, first, to accept Jesus as Savior (cf. 6:54, 56). Second, it can mean to continue or persevere in believing (8:31 ["hold" is remain]; 1 John 2:19, 24). Third, it can also mean believing, loving obedience (John 15:9-10). Without faith, no life of God will come to anyone. Without the life of God, no real fruit can be produced: Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. " John Walvoord & Roy B. Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary; John 15

- 8. So then from your study what does it mean "to abide"?
- 9. **Conviction statement:** Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied and your commitment to practice what you believe.
 - e.g. IF Jesus is the Vine and I am a branch THEN I must abide in Him by remaining firmly attached to Him and obeying what He tells me by being in His Word and praying daily, I must be sharing my faith consistently and loving my brothers and sisters in Christ well.

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE" WEEK 2

"RELATIONSHIPS"
WEEK 3

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WEEK 4

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POWER OF PRAYER"
WEEK 5

"OTHER-CENTERED LIVING"
WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION"
WEEK 7

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS"
WEEK 8





If you are like most people when you get a call on your cell phone you check and see who the call is from to see if you want to answer it. Software has been built into your phone so that the name of the caller comes up on the screen, a feature called "Caller ID". Have you ever just picked up your phone (without looking at the name of the caller), said hello and the person on the other end just starts talking without identifying themselves? Most of the time it is a family member or somebody you talk to often but not always. Often you have to listen to the subject of conversation or the sound of their voice to identify them, especially if you don't have their number in your

phone. Sometimes you can go on for several minutes trying to figure out just who it is that is talking to you. So here's the question, is there "Caller ID" for God? How do you know when He is speaking to you? Can you identify his voice?

Consider this quote by Harold Lindsell in his book "The Battle for the Bible". "Of all the doctrines connected with the Christian faith, none is more important than the one that has to do with the basis of our religious knowledge. For anyone who professes the Christian faith the root question is: From where do I get my knowledge on which my faith is based? The answers to this question are varied, of course, but for the Christian at least it always comes full circle to the Bible. When all has been said and done, the only true and dependable source for Christianity lies in the book we call the Bible."

God's voice then is most clearly and distinctly heard as we pour over the pages of Scripture studying it, memorizing it, pondering its meaning and applying it to our lives. George Mueller said "The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts."



READ • Use your sanctified imagination as you read, imagine you're the original author or readers. Try to imagine their motives, feelings, reactions. Remember the Bible was written in a context of human history. Put yourself in their shoes.

- 1. Read Psalm 19:1-14 in several translations. (see the 3 pages at the end of this study and/or check out www.biblegateway.com
 - a. Who was the author and why would he be familiar with the sky (vs 1-6)?



LITERARY CONTEXT • The Bible has 40 different authors and therefore is written with different styles and from different emotions and personalites. It is therefore important to identify the type of literature in the text. Common literary styles used in the Bible include: Narrative, Hebrew Poetry, Proverbs, Parables, Letters and Prophecy.

2. The literary style used in the Psalms is Hebrew Poetry, the distinguishing mark of this style is the use of "parallelism". An author will communicate the same truth more than once using different words. It is a rhyming of thought rather than a rhyming of sound (like in English poetry). Consider the genius of Hebrew poetry in that it rhymes thematically in any language. Look at Psalm 19:1-6. How does David say the same thing in each of the verses just using different words?

verse 1
verse 2
verse 3
verse 4a,b
verse 4c, 5
verse 6

3. Consider the graphic on the next page "Raw Honey & Refined Gold" (see Psalm 19:10) and fill out the chart below like in the sample.

Verse 7a	Name Law of the Lord	Meaning of Name Instruction, Direction	Attribute Perfect (whole)	Ministry Revives the soul
7b	Testimony			
8a	Precepts			
8b	Commandment			
9a	Fear of the Lord			
9b	Rules/ordinances			



Law - (TORAH- Hebrew) 1 instruction, direction (human or divine). 2 custom, manner.

Testimony - (AY-DOOTH- Hebrew) (1.) Witness or evidence (2.) The Scriptures, as the revelation of God's will

Precepts - (PIK-KOOD- Hebrew) 1 a command or principle intended especially as a general rule of action 2: an order issued by legally constituted authority to a subordinate official

Commandment - (MITZVAH- Hebrew), a verbal or written requirement or order. The religious usage of 'commandment' may be tied to the secular ones of king-subject and parent-child.

Fear of the Lor∂ - (YIR-AW- Hebrew)1 fear, terror, fearing.

1A fear, terror. 2 awesome or terrifying thing (object causing fear).

3 fear (of God), respect, reverence, piety. 4 revered.

Rules/ordinances - (MISHPAT- Hebrew) 1 judgment, justice, ordinance. 2 place, court, seat of judgment. 3 proper, fitting, measure, fitness, custom, manner, plan.



- 4. Consider again Psalm 19:7-9 and consider these questions:
 - a. How has the perfection of God's law revived your soul (see Psalm 119:28, 81; 143:8)?
 - b. How has the trustworthiness of the Lord's statutes moved you from simplicity to wisdom (see II Tim 3:15)?
 - c. How has the rightness of the Lord's precepts given joy to your heart? (see Jer 15:16)
 - d. How has the radiance of God's commands given light to your spiritual eyes? (see Psalm 119:105, 130)
 - e. How has the fear of God purified your heart (see Exodus 20:20) so that you might live for eternity?
 - f. How has the righteousness of the ordinances of the Lord given you security (sse Luke 6:46-49)?

5. In Psalm 19:10, David says that the Scriptures are more precious than refined gold and sweeter than raw honey. Eugene Peterson paraphrases it this way "God's Word is better than a diamond, better than a diamond set between emeralds. You'll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries." How would you paraphrase verse 10?

God's Word is better than _____ and it is sweeter than _____.

6. Read Psalm 19:11. Think of somone you know who keeps God's law, what rewards have you seen in their life? How about your own life?



Blind Spot

An area to the side and slightly behind a driver's field of vision that is not reflected in the vehicle's rearview mirror.

Read Psalm 19:11-13

How does God's Word help us with out blind spots? Tell us about a blind spot God revealed to you through His Word.

7.	What is David's conclusion about his own voice (Psalm 19:14) after he considers God's voice (Psalm 19:1-13)?
8.	Read Psalm 119. The Psalmist says that he loves God's Word. "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long." Psalm 119:97 Why does he love it?
	If you could write a love letter to God about His Word (like Psalm 119) what would you say?

9. Read II Timothy 3:1-9. What was the condition of society in Timothy's day? How does it compare to our society and world?

Read II Timothy 3:10-17. What truths had Timothy as a young leader (see I Timothy 4:12) learned and where had he learned it?



WORD MEANINGS • Discover the meaning of the Hebrew or Greek word, not the English word. Always remember the Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek, not English. The same English word can be the translation of different Hebrew or Greek words (e.g. there are three Greek words for the word 'love' in English). The same Greek or Hebrew word can be translated with different English words (e.g. katartizo in Greek can be translated 'mend' Mt 4:21, 'perfectly train' Lk 6:40, 'prepared' Ro 9:22, 'restore' Gal 6:1 and 'perfect' I Pet 5:10]. The immediate context greatly determines the meaning of the word. Greek and Hebrew word meanings can be found on the web at the location below: http://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/strongs-exhaustive-concordance/
[follow the instructions on the website to find out the meanings of Greek and Hebrew words.]

Type in the Bible reference you are studying, click search, click Interlinear view, click on individual words to find the definitions.

- 10. Look at II Timothy 3:16,17. Use the website mentioned above and look up the meanings of the key words given below (from the NASB version).
 - inspired -
 - profitable-
 - teaching-
 - reproof-

10. Look at II Timothy 3:16,17. (continued)
• correction-
• training-
• righteousness-
• adequate-
• equipped-
11. What insight do these meanings give you into the importance of God's Word?
12. Conviction statement: Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about God's Word and your commitment to practice what you believe.

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE"
WEEK 2

"RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST"
WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE POWER OF PRAYER" WEEK 5

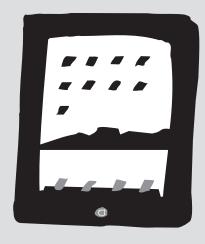
"OTHER-CENTERED LIVING"
WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION"
WEEK 7

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS"

WEEK 8





What if you were given a new iPad? Would you know how to use it? Some things you could probably figure out intuitively but if you really wanted to be able to use it to its fullest potential you'd have to read the quick start guide or even get online and read the help notes. If you didn't, you be limited by your own best guesses and if you weren't careful you could damage a valuable gift.

Many people are like that in the area of relationships. They start a relationship with someone of the opposite sex and try to figure it out on their own without ever reading the manual. Because relationships are so valuable, care must be exercised, or doing what feels right at the time can result in a lot of pain in this key area of your life. Let's consult the manufacturer of relationships to get His guidance and instructions on how to maximize this valuable gift.

Have you ever considered that relationship is at the heart of reality? In eternity past before anything was created, God Himself in the persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit was in perfect relationship. God did not create people because He was lonely, He was fully fulfilled in relationship with Himself. He created us out of His love for relationship. To be created in the image of God means that we too were meant for relationship.

- 1. Read Genesis 1:27-2:25.
 - a. In Genesis 1:27 it says that God made man in His own image, what does that mean? Why are both sexes important to express the image of God?
 - b. In Genesis 1:28 what mission does he give men and women?

"RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

2.

c. Consider Genesis 2:4-25. Often in a magazine there will be a feature story about personalities in a larger story. Genesis 2 is a feature story out of the larger story of the creation. What do we learn about the creation of the first man and woman?
d. Read Genesis 2:16,17. What command is given to the man?
The man and the woman were created in the image of God to reflect the glory of God's character to all of creation. Consider that when we obey the command to be fruitful and multiply we are being creative ourselves and reflect His love, when we rule and subdue we reflect His Lordship, when we tend and care for creation we reflect His omnipresence and when we refrain from taking what is forbidden we reflect His holiness. These four aspects of God's character: God is love (I John 4:16), God is Lord (Rev 19:16), God is Spirit (omnipresent-John 4:24) and God is light (holy- I John 1:5) encompass all the attributes of God. Consider the relationship between a man and a woman. Our high calling is to reflect the character of God (bear His image) through this relationship.
a. How should a man and woman reflect these attributes of God in their relationship?
i. God is love [be fruitful and multiply]
ii. God is Lord [rule and subdue]
iii. God is Spirit (omnipresent care) [tend and keep]
iv. God is Light (holy) [do not eat]

"RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

3. Read Genesis 2:19-25. How does the Lord show the man that he needs a companion? How is the creation of woman unique? Why do you think she was created in this way? What does the man proclaim when he first sees the woman?

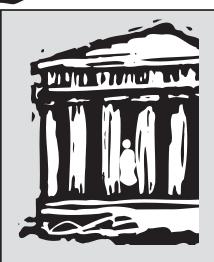


DOCTRINAL CONTEXT • Words and passages must be studied in the light of the ultimate context of the entire Bible. Very seldom does God tell us everything we need to know about a subject in one place in the Scriptures. The complete record of what the Bible says about a subject is called a theology or doctrine. When studying a passage we want to remember that we are dealing with only a portion of the doctrine. This is one of the reasons for lifelong Bible study, so that we might gain a full knowledge from all of God's Word on the key theological themes of the Bible. These include: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Salvation, Human Beings, the Church, Israel, Angels, Demons and the End Times.

- 4. Look at Genesis 2:24. It begins with the words "For this reason..." What is the reason? On the basis of that reason what should the man and woman do? From Genesis 2:25, how is the man and woman's relationship described? Who created marriage and sex? Why did He create it?
- 5. Someone has said "The new is in the old concealed, the old is in the new revealed." This saying cleverly reminds us that doctrines when first stated in the Old Testament are not fully understood until their deepest meaning is opened to us in the New Testament. Genesis 2:24 is quoted 3 times in the New Testament. Read each of these three passages to discover how foundational are the words of Genesis 2:24 to our understanding of the relationship between man and woman. What does each passage teach us?
 - a. Matthew 19:1-12 (see verses 4 & 5)

b. I Corinthians 6:12-20 (see verse 16)

c. Ephesians 5:22-33 (see verse 31)



An Honest Man

A number of years ago our family went to Washington D.C. for our vacation. As we climbed the steps to visit the Lincoln Memorial I was struck by what was printed on the back of the t-shirt of the man ahead of me. It had a graphic of a Ferris Wheel, a Roller Coaster and other rides and below it was written these words, "My body is not a temple it is an amusement park." I was stunned, here was an honest man at the memorial of honest Abe. He admitted that he had given himself over to pleasure. Many of us pretend we are temples but live like we are amusement parks.

Read I Corinthians 6:18-20

What does God say? Are you a temple or an amusement park? What is our motivation for being a temple rather than an amusement park? Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. The Corinthians were known for their immorality, instead of living in guilt and shame what did Paul encourage them to focus on?

"RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

6.	The relationship between a man and a woman is a sacred trust given to us by our Creator from the very
	beginning. How we relate to the opposite sex as a follower of Christ is part of that sacred trust. From
	looking at these passages, write out in a few sentences what you have discovered from the Bible
	about the theology of relationships.

7. The practice of 'dating' is a relatively recent means of relating for men and women. Less than a hundred years ago parents and family were the key decision makers in finding a life partner because of their wisdom in life and their knowledge of their son or daughter. In modern culture dating has given that privilege to men and women themselves. Dating itself is unknown in the world of the Bible but in the Scriptures we can discover principles that will help us in making decisions in this key area of our lives. In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul was responding to questions and situations that the church in Corinth was experiencing as they sought to follow God in an immoral culture. Look at these verses from I Corinthians to discover the principles he gives them. Look at each set of verses and write out a principle or a question that would help you apply the principle.

Example:

a. I Corinthians 6:12 -

Principle: Don't be mastered by any practice or person.

Question: Does it control you?

b. I Corinthians 8:9

Principle:

Question:

c. I Corinthians 9:24-27

Principle:

Question:

d. I Corinthians 10:23,24;

Principle:

Question: Week 3 pg 5

"RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

- 7. Principles from I Corinthians (continued)
 - e. I Corinthians 10:31

Principle:

Question:

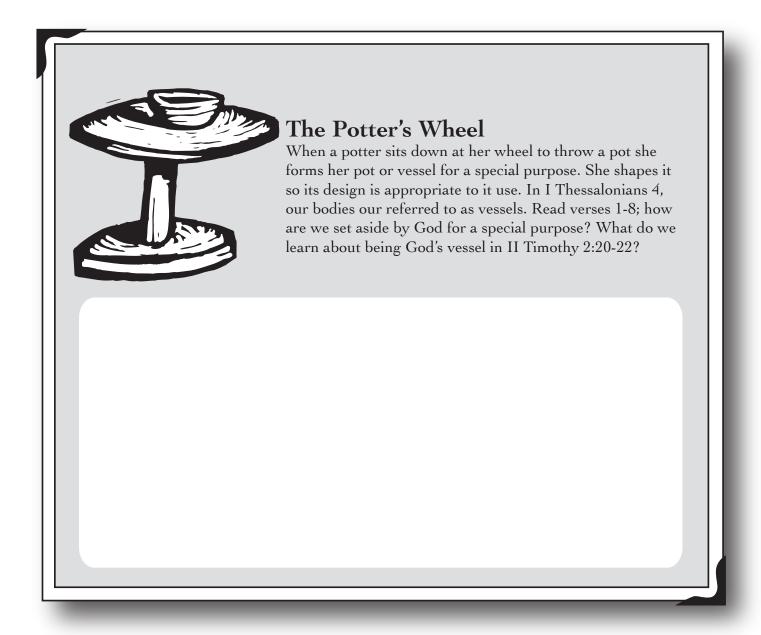
f. I Corinthians 13:4-7 *Principle:*

Question:

g. I Corinthians 15:58 *Principle:*

Question:

- 8. Look at the following case studies, what advice would you give these men and women using principles from Scripture? (Discuss one or more of these case studies in your small group.)
 - a. Bill was in a relationship in high school before he was a follower of Christ. After he got to know Christ and became aware of the principles of biblical relating from the Bible he became aware of how he had sinned in this area of his life. Now he experiences a lot of shame and guilt and feels 'dirty' before God. He doesn't know how any godly Christian woman could be interested in him. What would you tell Bill?
 - b. Mary and Tom are Christians and have been dating for awhile. They know that sexual intercourse before marriage is wrong but they are unsure about everything else. How should they decide what is appropriate for them in how they relate to each other in public and in private?
 - c. Larry and Lois have known each other for awhile and both are praying about if God may be leading them to develop a relationship. How long should they wait? Who should begin the relationship? What standards should they keep as they develop a relationship? Does Larry have any specific responsibilities? How about Lois? Should they get counsel from anyone? If so, who?
 - d. Sally has never really dated anyone. She went with a guy back home to prom but hasn't dated at all in college. She thinks about guys alot and finds it difficult not to be envious of friends who have a boyfriend or get asked out on dates. You are Sally's friend and she has told you about this hurt in her life. How would you help Sally be content with God's way snd timing in her situation?



9. **Conviction statement:** Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about Relationships and your commitment to practice what you believe.

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On our trip to D.C. we visited the U.S. Capitol, the meeting place of both houses of Congress. A friend of ours was working at the time as a staff member out of the office of the chaplain of the U.S. Senate. He took us on a tour of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. We got to see both houses in action in the work

of presenting and voting on legislation. While in the House of Representatives, we sat in the balcony as we watched the Representatives casting their votes on a piece of legislation. Our friend had to sit behind our family to get a seat. He decided he wanted to tell us something so without going to the end of the row and then coming up our row he just stepped over the seats. While this may be permissible at a college basketball game it is not proper decorum in the Congress of the United States! The Sergeant-at-Arms in the House rushed to our friend and strongly reprimanded him for his actions and threatened to remove him from the chamber. As he was being reprimanded our friend's identity badge as a staff member of the Chaplain's Office twirled on its chain around his neck and became visible. I saw the Sergeant-at-Arms visibly react when he realized that he was chewing out someone from the office of the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. My friend was incredibly embarrassed because he had not acted according to his identity. He represented the chaplaincy of the U.S. Senate and had been offensive to the process of government in the House of Representatives! He apologized profusely but the damage had been done, he must change his badge or change his behavior.

We Christians are a lot like my friend, in the rush of the moment or more frequently in the pressures of life we forget who we are. We are not in tune with our own identity.

1. Without looking at any of the rest of the pages in this study or in your Bible complete this sentence below, "I am ..." (How would you describe yourself?)

"Our Position and Identity in Christ" Week 4

2. In the Message Eugene Peterson says "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for" Ephesians 1:11a. So the question is, who are we in Christ? Christian, do you know who you are? In this study we are going to seek to gain insight and understanding our spiritual identity and riches in Christ by looking at the book of Ephesians.

STUDY SKILL

HISTORICAL CONTEXT • We often forget that the Bible is rooted in real human history. There are real people, real places and real life experiences. One of the most important questions we can ask is "What did this message from God mean to the original audience who received it?" To discover the historical context we ask questions like: Who wrote it? Who received it? Who is discussed? Where does it take place? Who are the authorities? What is the spiritual climate? To answer these questions we look both internally (in all of Scripture itself) and externally to Bible study resources like Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias and Biblical commentaries.

Let's consider the Historical Context of the letter to the Ephesians. Read Acts 19, 20 and answer these questions.

a.	Who	wrote	it (see	e Ephesia	ns 1:1) a	and wha	t was hi	s associatio	on with the	Ephesians?

b. Who were the Ephesians and what was their story?

c. Where is Ephesus and when did Paul visit them?

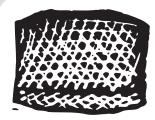
d. Who are the social, political and spiritual authorities? What was their relationship to the Ephesians?

e. What is the spiritual climate in Ephesus?

"OUR POSITION AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST" WEEK 4

3. Turn now to Ephesians and read chapter 1. In verse 3, Paul says that they have been blessed with "every spiritual blessing in heaven in Christ." Look at Ephesians 1:1-14 and look for the phrases "in Christ" or "in him (referring to Christ)". From this passage what are some of the blessings we have "in Christ"?

In our study last week we discovered from I Corinthians 6 that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that Christ is in us. This week from Ephesians we discover that we are in Christ. We are in Christ and Christ is in us. How can this be? Years ago I asked my team leader at an STP that very same question and he explained it to me this way. He said that I was like a sponge and Christ was like the vast expanse of the ocean. If you took a sponge and threw it into the ocean, the sponge would be in the ocean and the water of the ocean would be in the sponge. Christ is in me and I am in Christ a glorious truth indeed!



Does the illustration of the sponge in the ocean make sense to you? How do you understand the concept that Christ is in you and you are in Christ?



"Our Position and Identity in Christ" Week 4

4. Read again Ephesians 1 from the Living Bible (below). What new insights do you get about who you are in Christ? Underline, circle or highlight the passages that particularly minister to you. Do you view yourself in this way? Why or why not?

To All Christians Everywhere:

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault--we who stand before him covered with his love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!

Now all praise to God for his wonderful kindness to us and his favor that he has poured out upon us, because we belong to his dearly loved Son. So overflowing is his kindness towards us that he took away all our sins through the blood of his Son, by whom we are saved; and he has showered down upon us the richness of his grace for how well he understands us and knows what is best for us at all time.

God has told us his secret reason for sending Christ, a plan he decided on in mercy long ago; and this was his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together from wherever we are--in heaven or on earth--to be with him in Christ, forever. Moreover, because of what Christ has done we have become gifts to God that he delights in, for as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be his, and all things happen just as he decided long ago. God's purpose in this was that we would praise God and give glory to him for doing these mighty things for us, who were the first to trust in Christ.

And because of what Christ did, all you others too, who heard the Good News about how to be saved, and trusted Christ, were marked as belonging to Christ by the Holy Spirit, who long ago has been promised to all of us Christians. His presence within us is God's guarantee that he really will give us all that he promised; and the Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already purchased us and that he guarantees to bring us to himself. This is just one more reason for us to praise our glorious God.

5. If you study the prayers of Paul in the New Testament (like Ephesians 1:15-23 [below] and 3:14-21 his chief request is that we would understand our identity in Christ. Why is this so crucial for Paul?

"That is why, ever since I heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and of the love you have for Christians everywhere, I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom to see clearly and really understand who Christ is and all that he has done for you. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to him! I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heaven, far, far above any other king or ruler or dictator or leader.

Yes, his honor is far more glorious than that of anyone else either in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under his feet and made him the supreme Head of the church-- which is his body, filled with himself, the Author and Giver of everything everywhere. Paul"

WEEK 4 PG 4

An Extreme Makeover

You've probably seen the show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition", where they do a home makeover for a deserving family. The ultimate makeover occurs when any person puts their faith in Christ and becomes a "new creation in Christ" II Corinthians 5:17. We have been transformed from a caterpillar into a butterfly. Spiritually, we've gone from being earth-bound to the world and its ways to becoming creatures who live in a whole new atmosphere, the ways of heaven. In order for us to understand our new identity its important to consider our old identity.

Read Ephesians 2:1-22 Who were we before Christ and who are we after Christ?

Before Christ:

After Christ:



"Our Position and Identity in Christ" Week 4

6.	As we read on in the book of Ephesians we understand that our identity in Christ is a calling that we have received from Him. In Ephesians 4:1 Paul urges us to "live a life worthy of the calling that we have received". Read each of these passages below, how should our beliefs (our identity) influence our behavior?
	a. Ephesians 4:2,3
	b. Ephesians 4:14-5:21
	c. Ephesians 5:22-6:9
7.	Looking back at Ephesians 4:1 the word 'worthy' or "AXIOS" in Greek means "proper or fitting". Here it means to 'live a life that corresponds to the standard God set when he called you'. As you looked at these verses above where do you need to make changes to live out your identity?



Living Out Your Identity

"On 11 March 1830, a ten year old girl in England began her daily studies with her tutor. Her lesson for the day was the succession to the royal throne; as she studied the genealogical charts, she discovered for the first time that she was the next heir to that throne!

Victoria's response was to weep. Then she dried her tears and said, "I will be good." Victoria inherited the throne seven years later, and she lived up to her promise because she knew who she was and acted accordingly."

Warren Wiersbe - "So Thats's What a Christian Is!"

So in light of who we are in Christ how should we then live?

8. The book of Ephesians has been outlined by Bible teachers in this way. I. Our Wealth (Our identity in Christ) Ephesians 1-3 II. Our Walk (Living out our identity) Ephesians 4:1-6:9 and III. Our Warfare (Protecting our identity) Ephesians 6:10-24. Paul uses the armor of a Roman soldier to illustrate our spiritual weapons in Christ. Curiously in spiritual warfare we are not called to take territory but to stand in the position we already possess. (see Ephesians 6:10,13) Just like cyber crooks in the world today Satan is in the business of 'identity theft'. Using God's spiritual weapons (see Ephesians 6:10-20) how do we protect our spiritual identity?

9. Conviction statement: Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about your Identity and Position in Christ and your commitment to practice what you believe.

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE" WEEK 2

> "RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND **IDENTITY IN CHRIST"** WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE Power of Prayer" WEEK 5

OTHER-CENTERED LIVING WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

"Called to the Campus" Week 8





I was sitting in a meeting with a bunch of my college friends listening to a message by an author that had written a book on faith. I was looking for some secret on how to become a great man of faith.

This guy must know the secret, he'd written a book on it.

The speaker made an interesting proposal. He said "If there was a way I could surgically remove your faith so that I could look at it, what I would be looking at is your concept of God." What he said totally caught me by surprise. I had been focusing on growing my faith, the speaker instead challenged me to enlarge my view of God. I had to stop and ask myself, "How well do I know God?"

The Scriptures are filled with the stories of men, women and children who knew God well enough to trust Him. They took great risks for God because they found Him trustworthy. Some did great exploits, some just did the next thing faithfully.

- 1. Turn in your Bibles to the book of II Chronicles chapter 20. This is the story of one of the Kings of Judah named Jehoshaphat. We find out earlier in the Bible that Saul was the first king of Israel, then David and then his son Solomon. After Solomon the kingdom split into two kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. Each kingdom had twenty kings. The books of I & II Kings and II Chronicles are the record of those kings. Of the 40 kings only 10 were faithful to God and all of those kings were in the southern kingdom, the kingdom of Judah. Jehoshaphat was one of the faithful kings.
 - a. Read II Chronicles 20:1-2. What was the situation that Jehoshaphat and his people were in? How would you imagine they were feeling?
 - b. What did Jehoshaphat lead the people to do? (see verses 3,4)
 - c. In his classic book called "Prayer" by O. Hallesby, the author states that helplessness is ..."the first and surest indication of a praying heart. As far as I can see, prayer has been ordained only for the helpless. It is the last resort of the helpless. Indeed, the very last way out. We try anything before we finally resort to prayer."

(continued on next page)

WEEK 5 PG 1

"FAITH AND THE POWER OF PRAYER" WEEK 5

1. 0	e. (continued) O. Hallesby goes on "Your helplessness is your best prayer. It calls from your heart to the heart of God with greater effect than all your uttered pleas. He hears it from the very moment that you are seized with helplessness, and He becomes actively engaged at once in hearing and answering the prayer of your helplessness." Read on in the story of Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20:5-12. How does Jehoshaphat reveal his helplessness and his faith?
Ċ	d. Carefully consider three questions that Jehoshaphat asks God in his prayer. How do these questions reveal that Jehoshaphat knows God?
€	e. Read on in the story of Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah. (II Chronicles 20:13-30. What did the Lord call the people to do? How did they all demonstrate faith? What did God do and what was the result?
f	Again, look at Jehoshaphat's three questions, vs 6 "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not?" vs 7 "O our God, did you not? vs 12 O our God, will you not? Consider the story of your own life and these same questions. Are you not? Who have you discovered God to be?
	Did you not? What has God done for you?
	Will you not? What are you believing God to do in and through you?



"Faith is living without scheming."

Abraham is often given as an example of faith to us in the New Testament (see Romans 4, Galatians 3, James 2, Hebrews 11). Abraham's faith grew to the place where he would willingly offer his son Isaac on an altar but the growth was filled with stops and starts. His was a pattern of sometimes trusting and sometimes scheming. Scheming is trying to accomplish things or trying to get things through your own manipulations and devices. Look at the following passages, was Abraham scheming or trusting? How did he exhibit faith? How did he respond from fear?

Genesis 12:1-5

Genesis 12:10-20

Genesis 15:1-6

Genesis 16:1-6

Genesis 17

Genesis 20

Genesis 21:1-7

Genesis 22:1-19

Think back over your own Christian life. In what arenas of your life are you trusting God? (School, friendships, spiritual growth, career, marriage, children, salvation of friends and family, ministry opportunities, etc.)

In what arenas of your life are you tempted to respond in fear by scheming? What can you do to instead respond in faith?

"FAITH AND THE Power of Prayer" WEEK 5

- 3. It is heartening to see that the growth of Abraham and Sarah's faith was not a steady meteoric climb from one victory to another. Just like us, they both made mistakes but as it says in Genesis 21:1 "The Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said," God graciously forgave them and made promises to them to firm up their faith. Amy Carmichael, missionary to India said "A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted." Abraham and Sarah had to wait 25 years before the fulfillment of God's promise to them.
- a. What promises did God give them as they waited on Him? - Genesis 12:2,3 - Genesis 13:14-17 - Genesis 15:1-5 - Genesis 17:4-8; 15 - Genesis 22:15-17 b. Note the overwhelmingly blessing God is promising to Abraham and Sarah, how is it described? c. Why does the Lord make Abraham and Sarah wait so long?

In light of God's incredible promises to Abraham and Sarah is it possible that He had to prepare them through waiting to be blessed abundantly. What do you think?

- d. Why after receiving a son is Abraham asked to take him to Mount Moriah and sacrifice Isaac, the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise to them?
- e. It has been said that we are blessed to be a blessing. How did this hold true for Abraham and Sarah and how does it hold true for us?
- f. What promises from God's word are an encouragement for your faith?



God's "Hall of Faith"

Have you ever been to the "Pro Football Hall of Fame" in Canton, Ohio or the "National Baseball Hall of Fame" in Cooperstown, New York? Every year players, coaches, and other sports figures are nominated to enter the "Hall" and then a select few are chosen to be "Hall of Famers." Did you know that the Bible has a "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11? In the Scriptures, men and women became famous through their faith. Romans 15:4 says "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Let's look at Hebrews 11 to see if we can discover from these men and women what it means to be a person of faith.

Hebrews 11:1 says "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Read through Hebrews 11 and pick out your five favorite "Heroes of the Faith" and answer these two questions:

Name of What was unseen How did they the Hero that they hoped for? act out their faith?

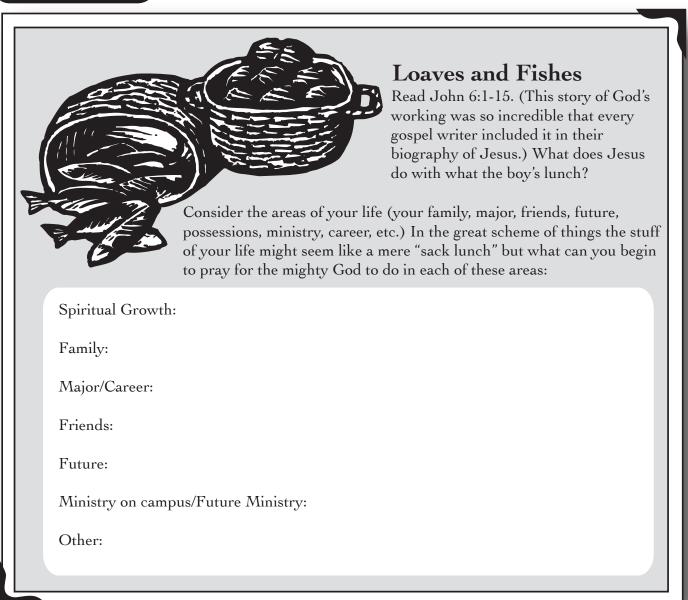
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"FAITH AND THE POWER OF PRAYER" WEEK 5

- 4. The book of Acts is the story of the growth of the early church after the resurrection of Jesus and his return to heaven. It is a story of "Acts" of the disciples of Jesus by the power of God's Spirit. It is a story of what happens when God's people pray.
 - a. Read Acts chapter 12. What was the situation that the early church was in? (verses 1-4) What resources were available to them in this situation? Did they have any connections or means to get out of their predicament? Was there any way they could 'scheme' to get what they wanted?
 - b. O. Hallesby in his book on prayer goes on to say that "To pray is to open the door unto Jesus and admit him into your distress. Your helplessness is the very thing which opens wide the door unto Him and give Him access to all your needs." What do the believers in Jerusalem do in their extreme helplessness? (see verse 5)
 - c. Read Acts 12:6-11. What does God do in response to their prayers?
 - d. What happens when Peter shows up at their prayer meeting? (see verses 12-17)
 - e. They prayed for Peter to be released and God rescued him from prison and they didn't believe it. It was so amazing and awesome that it astonished them greatly. How can you identify with these early disciples?
 - f. Someone has said, "If you can explain what is happening then God didn't do it." How was this true in this story? What are you praying for on your campus that only God could do?



5. Conviction statement: Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about Faith and the Power of Prayer and your commitment to practice what you believe.

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE"
WEEK 2

"RELATIONSHIPS"
WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST" WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE
POWER OF PRAYER"
WEEK 5

"OTHER-CENTERED LIVING" WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION

& WORLD VISION"

WEEK 7

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS"

WEEK 8





A few years ago, my daughter attended a couple of Nav STP's. One year she went as a team member and a couple of years later she had the privilege of being a team leader. She learned a lot at both programs but I knew she had really discovered what it meant to be a

follower of Christ when she was at home after her second program. One evening after supper she did something I can't remember her ever doing on her own initiative. She got up from the table and instead of just letting her mother do them, she did the dishes. Small thing? No way, my daughter had learned to think about others. She saw her mother as a person worthy of service and not just someone there to serve her. I knew this was huge because the secret of JOY in the Christian life is Jesus, Others and then Yourself in that order.

One of Paul's favorite bodies of believers was the church at Philippi. While in prison, Paul wrote to the Philippians to commend them and exhort them in their faith. One of the key themes of his letter to them was how to live a life of joy. In Philippians 2 he encourages them through 4 personal examples to establish a radically different lifestyle then what comes 'naturally'. Paul calls them to be more concerned about others than they are about themselves. Who would have thought that this could be a secret to joy?

1. Read Philippians 2:1-4. In verses 2-4 Paul gives both a positive and a negative charge. What does he tell them to do and not to do?

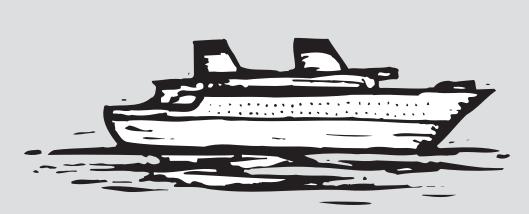
The positive - verse 2

The negative - verses 3,4

What is their motivation to live this way? (see verse 1) How does this connect to what we already studied about our identity in Christ?



2.	In the rest of Philippians 2, Paul gives us four examples of individuals who lived in an other-centered way. The foremost example is Jesus Himself and His extreme sacrifice for us. In verse 5 we are challenged to think or have the same attitude as Christ did when He took steps downward to the point of death on the cross. Look at Philippians 2:5-8 and trace His steps downward.
	a. What did Jesus do because He put our interests above His own?
	b. How did Jesus think about others? How can we think like He thought?
	c. How did God honor Jesus?
3.	Read Philippians 2:12-30. Look at each of the three individuals below. How were they called to live sacrificially as they labored in the lives of others? How does Paul use their example to motivate the Philippians (and us) to other-centeredness?
	a. Paul Himself - Philippians 2:12-18
	b. Timothy - Philippians 2:19-24
	c. Epaphroditus - Philippians 2:25-30



At 4:20 p.m. on Thursday, May 28th 1914, in perfect weather, the Empress of Ireland, a sleek, two funnelled Canadian Pacific liner, slipped her moorings at Quebec and nosed out into the St Lawrence estuary, bound for Liverpool. On board were more than one thousand passengers, 130 of them were members of the Salvation Army Canadian Staff Band who were invited to be one of six bands playing at the Congress of Nations. At half past one o'clock, Friday morning, the Empress reached Father Point, where the pilot was dropped. The vessel then proceeded at full speed. After passing the Cock Point gas buoy, Captain Kendall sighted the Norwegian collier Storstad. At that time a slight fog bank could be seen approaching from the land, and the Captain realized it was going to pass between the Storstad, which was then about two miles away, and his own vessel. Then the fog came and the Storstad's lights disappeared."

Fog signals were exchanged, but these were misunderstood, and at about 2 o'clock the great hull of the Storstad suddenly loomed out of the darkness, and with shattering force the steel-sheathed bow of the collier Storstad crashed into the side of the Empress, tearing the ship from middle to the propellers, and making the water-tight bulkheads useless. The vessel went down in fourteen minutes.

A total of 1,012 lives were lost making it the worst maritime disaster in Canadian history. 'When the 'Empress of Ireland' went down with a hundred and thirty Salvation Army officers on board, one hundred and nine officers were drowned, and not one body that was picked up had on a life-belt. The few survivors told how the Salvationists, finding there were not enough life-preservers for all, took off their own belts and strapped them upon even strong men, saying, "I can die better than you can;" and from the deck of that sinking boat they flung their battle-cry around the world - 'Others!' from Salvation Army History

4. Did you know that William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army made 'Others!' the one word he desired to describe their mission? Dying in somone else's place is of course the extreme act of other-centeredness. Consider Luke 9:23 and Romans 12:1. What do they say about dying for others in the big and small things we face every day?

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

5. Sacrifice for the good of others is difficult to talk about and even more difficult to live. How have you struggled with being other-centered on your team this summer? How about in the STP as a whole or in your job or in evangelism on the beach? What is God teaching you in this area?



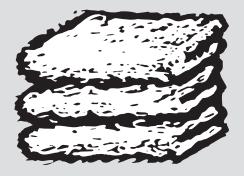
CHARACTER STUDY • When looking at a passage of Scripture it is important to remember that the people that are written about or spoken to were real people with personalities, strengths, weaknesses and personal foibles. In other words they were people just like us. There is much insight in background study into their lives and character and in trying to understand the situation written about from their point of view. Imagine you are the original author or readers of the text. Try to imagine their motives, feelings, setting, as they wrote/read. The Bible was given to us in the context of human history. Put yourself in their shoes as you read their writings.

- 6. Turn in your Bibles to Luke 22:1-34. In this passage Jesus is meeting with the disciples the night before he goes to the cross. What is the atmosphere like? Look at the different people in this passage and using a 'sanctified imagination' meditate on what they may have been thinking.
 - a. Judas (vs 1-6)
 - b. Peter and John (vs 7-13)
 - c. All the disciples (vs 14-23)

d. Peter (vs 31-34)

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

7. Look at Luke 22:24-30. As the disciples meet with Jesus and he speaks again of what he will do for them on the cross what is the subject of their discussion?





The Basin and the Towels

Look at John 13:1-17. What had Jesus just done for the disciples before they ate the Passover meal? What did he tell them to do? In light of Luke 22:24-30 do they seem to be getting His message? How do they misunderstand true greatness?

Many of the truths we first hear as we grow in Christ we don't grasp fully but as we mature we realize the depth of their reality. Read I Peter 5:1-8, what has Peter discovered that he doesn't first understand on the night before Jesus died? (Its a fun study to look at the story of Peter in the gospels and then try to imagine what experiences with Jesus he is sharing from as he writes I & II Peter.)

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

- 8. In each of the four gospels a major theme about the identity of Jesus is expressed. In the Gospel of Mark the emphasis is that Jesus was the ultimate servant. Mark's gospel was especially written to the Romans. The Romans were people of action and servants and slaves were very common in the Roman empire.
 - a. Read Mark 10:35-45. What do James and John request of Jesus?
 - b. How do the other disciples respond?
 - c. What does Jesus tell them? How does He describe His own ministry? (verse 45)
 - d. Jesus tells us in Mark 10:45 that He did not come to be served but to serve. How does the desire and expectation to 'be served' lead to problems with others and cause us to be self-centered rather than other-centered?

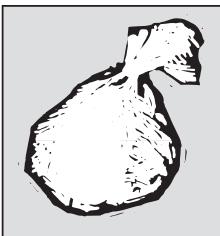
Note: For an excellent article by J.H. Horsburgh on this passage read it at this website: http://www.cchd.de/MinisteredUnto_en.html



PARABLES • Jesus' favorite speech form, the parable, was subversive. Parables sound absolutely ordinary: casual stories about soil and seed, meals and coins and sheep, bandits and victims, farmers and merchants. And they are wholly secular: of his forty or so parables recorded in the Gospels, only one has its setting in church, and only a couple mention the name God. As people heard Jesus tell these stories, they saw at once that they weren't about God, so there was nothing in them threatening their own sovereignty. They relaxed their defenses. They walked away perplexed, wondering what they meant, the stories lodged in their imagination. And then, like a time bomb, they would explode in their unprotected hearts. An abyss opened up at their very feet. He was talking about God; they had been invaded!

Jesus continually threw odd stories down alongside ordinary lives (para, "alongside"; bole, "thrown") and walked away without explanation or altar call. Then listeners started seeing connections: God connections, life connections, eternity connections. The very lack of obvious- ness, the unlikeness, was the stimulus to perceiving likeness: God likeness, life likeness, eternity likeness. But the parable didn't do the work- it put the listener's imagination to work. Parables aren't illustrations that make things easier; they make things harder by requiring the exercise of our imaginations, which if we aren't careful becomes the exercise of our faith. Eugene H. Peterson

When interpreting parables it is important to follow certain guidelines in order to understand the true meaning of the parable. The principle parts and figures of a parable represent certain realities. Consider only these principal parts and figures when drawing conclusions. As you interpret parables follow this procedure: 1. Determine the purpose of the parable. 2. Make sure you explain the different parts of the parable in accordance with the main design. 3. Use only the principal parts of the parable in explaining the lesson. It is when people try to interpret the details that error can easily creep in. Do not make the parable say too much. (Taken from A Layman's Guide to Interpreting the Bible by Walter Henrichsen • Zondervan)



The Good Samaritan

Read Luke 10:25-35. Why does Jesus tell this parable? What question is he answering?



What is the central point of this parable?

Consider these neighbors in your life. How are loving them as you love yourself? How can you improve in being other-centered with these others? Family:

Friends:

Roommates/Housemates:

Classmates/Professors:

Staff & Friends in Navs here and on Campus:

Employers/Fellow Workers:

Others?:

9. **Conviction statement:** Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about living an other-centered life and your commitment to practice what you believe.

"ABIDING IN CHRIST" WEEK 1

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE" WEEK 2

> "RELATIONSHIPS" WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND **IDENTITY IN CHRIST"** WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE Power of Prayer" WEEK 5

'OTHER-CENTERED LIVING' WEEK 6

THE GREAT COMMISSION & World Vision" WEEK 7

"Called to the Campus" Week 8



JAX/2010/STP



In his book *Disciples Are Made—Not Born*, Walter Henrichsen described a display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago that featured a checkerboard with 1 grain of wheat on the first

square, 2 on the second, 4 on the third, then 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, and so on. Somewhere down the board, there was so much grain of wheat that it was spilling over into neighboring squares; so the display ended there. Above the demonstration was a question: At this rate of doubling each square, how much grain would you have on the checkerboard by the time you reached the sixty-fourth square? To find the answer to this riddle, you punched a button on the console in front of you, and the answer flashed on a screen above the board: Enough to cover the entire subcontinent of India, fifty feet deep! There would be 153 billion tons of rice more than the world rice harvest for the next one thousand years. Henrichsen concludes: "The reason that the church of Jesus Christ finds it so hard to stay on top of the Great Commission is that the population of the world is multiplying while the church is merely adding. Addition can never keep pace with multiplication."

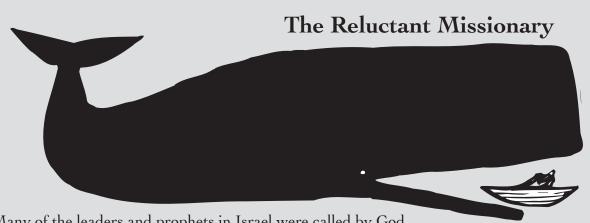
The first commandment that God ever gave to the man and the woman was to 'be fruitful and multiply" and by that multiplication to "fill the earth and subdue it' (Genesis 1:28). Adam and Eve walked in perfect fellowship with God and it was God's passionate desire that the earth would be filled with men, women, boys and girls who loved God and each other very well. As you know, Adam and Eve sinned and hid from the loving presence of God and cast blame upon each other. What did God do? Destroy them and start over? Forget the whole idea? No, God sought out the man and the woman calling to them saying "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9) This was not a geographical question (God knew their position) but a relational one. This is the question that God has been calling out to humanity ever since.

Search & Rescue: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes a Difference

The apostle Peter expresses it this way "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." II Peter 3:9 The promise Peter speaks of is the certainty of a coming day of judgment (II Peter 3:1-8) and he tells us that judgment is being held back for a reason and what is that reason?

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

- 2. As we study through the Word of God we are amazed to discover that the Almighty God is overwhelmingly concerned for people. He wants all people to be His own. It's easy to think that God's people in the Old Testament were the Jews and in the New Testament his people are people of any race or nationality. Actually, from the beginning of time God has loved all peoples. He chose out the Jewish people so that through them he could reach all the peoples of the world. Look at the following passages and see if you can discover God's passion for all peoples. In each passage how do you see God's concern for the nations? At times God judges mankind, how are his judgments acts of preservation and loving discipline to draw all men to himself?
 - a. At Creation Genesis 1:28
 - b. Noah Genesis 6:5-8; 9:1, 8-11
 - c. Babel Genesis 11:1-9
 - d. Abraham Genesis 12:1-3; 22:17,18
 - e. The Exodus from Egypt Exodus 14:3,4
 - f. The Law (protecting the 'aliens' [i.e. the non-Jews] among them) Exodus 22:21; Leviticus 19:33.34; Numbers 15:14-16; Deuteronomy 10:18,19
 - g. The nation of Israel Deuteronomy 28:9.10
 - h. The temple 2 Chronicles 6:32-33 (the outer court of the temple was built for the Gentiles to come to know the God of Israel see Isaiah 56:6,7)
 - i. The psalms Psalm 2:8; 33:8; 67:1,2; 96:3; 145:8-13
 - j. The wisdom of Solomon I Kings 10:23,24
 - k. The prophets Habakkuk 2:14; Micah 4:2, 5:4,5



Many of the leaders and prophets in Israel were called by God to declare His glory to nations other than Israel. Joseph and Moses exalted God to the Egyptians, Joshua to the peoples of Canaan, Daniel to the Babylonians, Medes and Persians, and Nehemiah and Esther to the Persians. In some of these instances Israel was in power and in others they were in bondage but in each situation God was using the circumstances of God's people to touch other nations. If anyone from those nations responded in faith the Lord was gracious to accept them. Consider Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth) or Rahab who was from Jericho (Joshua 2) or even Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king (Daniel 4). Each of these leaders and prophets was God's missionary to another people. God's most reluctant missionary was a prophet named Jonah. God called him to preach judgment to the wicked Assyrians in the capital city of Ninevah. Read the story of Jonah in the book named after him. What does the Lord do to reveal to Jonah His compassion for all peoples? Does Jonah ever understand God's heart?

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

- 3. Isaiah was a prophet of God who ministered before God under kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. If you read through the book of Isaiah you discover in the first five chapters that his message of woe and judgment went out to God's people. Then in chapter 6, Isaiah experiences the holiness of God and pronounces the woe upon himself (Isa 6:5), the Lord cleanses him and Isaiah volunteers to be God's messenger even though many will not understand his message (Isa 6:6-13). After that experience Isaiah pronounces not only judgment but deliverance and gives to us "precious promises" of salvation for all peoples. Look at these verses in Isaiah, how does the Lord use this prophet to declare His heart for the nations and his plan to send his chosen one?
 - a. Isaiah 11:10,11 -
 - b. Isaiah 25:7-9 -
 - c. Isaiah 37:20 -
 - d. Isaiah 45:5,6 -
 - e. Isaiah 45:22,23 -
 - f. Isaiah 49:5-6; 21-23 -
 - g. Isaiah 52:7-10 -
 - h. Isaiah 54:3 -
 - i. Isaiah 56:3,6,7-
 - j. Isaiah 60:1-5
- 4. Read Isaiah 52:13-53;12. This passage written some 700 years before the time of Christ describes God's suffering servant. In Isaiah 52:15, He is described as the one who would "sprinkle many nations". The word 'sprinkle' in the Old Testament means 'to sprinkle with blood', part of what the high priest would do when he made the offering in the temple for the sins of the people (Leviticus 4:6). This suffering servant would be the person through whom the Lord would fulfill his promises to the nations. How is this servant described?

- 5. So 700 years later the people of Israel like many countries were under the subjugation of Rome and longing for God to send a deliver, a Messiah, to free them from their oppression and reestablish them as the foremost among nations. The Messiah did come but not to conquer in the way they had hoped. He came in the way of the suffering servant. The gospel writers tell us the good news of this Messiah. Look at these passages in the gospels and see how the authors refer us back to Isaiah.
 - a. The beginning of Jesus' ministry Luke 4:14-21 (Isaiah 61:1,2)
 - b. The center of Jesus' ministry Matthew 4:12-17 (Isaiah 9:1,2)
 - c. Jesus' healing ministry Matthew 8:17 (Isaiah 53:4) Matthew 12:15-21 (Isaiah 42:1-4)
 - d. The response to Jesus' ministry Matthew 13:14,15 (Isaiah 6:9,10) Matthew 15:9 (Isaiah 29:13)
 - e. Jesus' death Luke 22:37 (Isaiah 53:12)

Money Changers

Through the course of Jesus' ministry, people responded to his miracles and were astounded by His teaching. He drew large crowds and spoke specifically against the hypocrisy of the religious establishment. As his popularity grew there was a mounting resistance to him by the ruling religious elite. After entering Jerusalem and having his followers hail him as the 'king who comes in the name of the Lord' he went to the temple

where his actions inflamed his enemies even further. He entered into the temple area and drove out those who were changing money and selling there (see Mark 11:15-19). These money changers had set up their tables in a portion of the temple called "the court of the Gentiles" where people from other nations could come to God. As Jesus drove them out he quoted Isaiah 56:7. Look at this

passage, how is Jesus' passion for the nations revealed? Why is Jesus angry? How do his enemies respond? You are probably not a Jew, what do Jesus' actions say about his commitment to you and anyone else that is a Gentile (non-Jew)?

"THE GREAT COMMISSION" & WORLD VISION" WEEK 7

- 6. After Jesus dies on the cross and is resurrected he meets with his disciples over a course of 40 days to encourage them and instruct them. In his times with them he communicates the mission that has been on His heart and as we have discovered through the Scriptures has always been on God's heart. Dawson Trotman, the founder of The Navigators used to say "World Vision is getting on your heart what is on God's heart, the world." Look at these passages, what is Christ's mandate to His followers? What is their part? What is God's part? Was this just for the early disciples? How about us?
 - a. Matthew 28:16-20 -
 - b. Mark 16:14-20 (for insight into verse 18 see Acts 28:1-6)
 - c. Luke 24;36-49 -
 - d. John 20:19-23 -
 - e. Acts 1:1-9
- 7. The book of Acts is the story how as they received power from the Holy Spirit they were witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of their world. They went out sharing the story of Christ and how others could be saved from the power and penalty of sin. This was Christ's Great Co-mission, they took His mission as their mission. He would be with them always as they expanded His kingdom. The rest of the New Testament are letters that were written to bodies of believers that were established in cities as they spread the message. They were instructed on how to live in Christlike community and how to expand His mission. Look at a couple of pasages in the letters. What do they say about our responsibility to the Great Commission?
 - a. Romans 10:8-15

b. II Corinthians 5: 11-21



The Finals are Posted

I was in a campus bookstore a few years ago and they were playing a video from a national championship that their team had won. It was exciting to watch the highlights of the big game but I'm sure it was a lot different from watching it 'live'. Watching it live you weren't sure who would win but on videotape you could just enjoy the memories. The book of Revelation tells us about the future and tells us the final score has already been posted. We win!

Read Revelation 5. What does it tell us about the fulfillment of the Great Commission? Who will be standing before Jesus (the Lamb - John 1:29) in eternity?

How does this future scene in heaven motivate you and encourage you to pursue the Great Commission? What does I Corinthians 15:58 say about this?

8. Conviction statement: Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about World Vision and the Great Commission and your commitment to make His mission your mission.

"ABIDING IN CHRIST"
WEEK 1

"THE HOLY SCRIPTURE"
WEEK 2

"RELATIONSHIPS"
WEEK 3

"OUR POSITION AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST"
WEEK 4

"FAITH AND THE POWER OF PRAYER" WEEK 5

"OTHER-CENTERED LIVING"
WEEK 6

"THE GREAT COMMISSION & WORLD VISION"
WEEK 7

"Called to the Campus" Week 8



Haystack Prayer



"They huddled under a haystack. Ordinarily the five college students met under the protective branches of a large maple tree and under the cover of night to read the Word of God, confess their sins, sing a song of forgiveness and pray for revival for their campus. Even the minutes of their

meetings were kept in secret. Tonight was different. The small, beleaguered company had been driven from their secret sanctuary by thunder that drowned out their prayers, lightning that crackled around them and rain that drenched them to the skin. An old barn with the comfort of a haystack became their refuge. There, with the storm symbolizing the hostility of their campus against them and their faith, they intuitively knew that their moment had come. God would answer their prayers. With the mysterious wind of his Holy Spirit, he would bring convicting and cleansing power to Williams College, a school founded through spiritual revival but now a seedbed for sin and skepticism. A Great Awakening was on its way!"

The Coming Great Awakening by David L. McKenna

"Williams College was a hard core center for heresy, blasphemy and ridicule – until the five students prayed under a haystack in 1806. With the mystery of the wind, the Spirit of God swept over the campus bringing repentance and redemption to scores of students, who, in turn, took the witness of revival from campus to campus, church to church and city to city until "Awakening" became the watchword for the stuggling nation. No one contests the genuine nature of that movement as infidelity gave way to vigorous faith and deism went bankrupt against the revelation of a personal God who loves and redeems all mankind." David McKenna goes on to write in his book that there have been five great awakenings in the history of our country and "that we know that those awakenings often began and came full cycle among Christian students on college campuses" and that "college students led the way in moral reform and world evangelism." Men and women I hope that these words ignite a fire in your soul as they do mine. We have the same God, the same gospel, we can band together and pray for our campuses as they did. Hopefully God has grabbed your heart in a profound way this summer as you heard men and women of God teach His Word, poured over the Scriptures, shared your faith on the beach and at work and have been sharpened by the lives of the men and women on your teams and at this program. Could one of the "Things Unseen" be a great movement of God on your campus through men and women like you?

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS" WEEK 8

- 1. Turn in your Bible to Daniel chapter 1. This is the story of Daniel and his three friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (you may remember them as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego). They were recruited to attend "Babylonia University" in a drastic way. Nebuchadnezzar and his military defeated Israel and took them away from home and country and put them in his college for a three year program so they could enter into service in his government. Read Daniel 1 for the rest of the story.
 - a. How do you think they felt about being torn from their homes and forced into King Nebuchadnezzar's service?
 - b. What were the criteria for the entrance into Babylonia U? (verse 3,4)
 - c. What courses did they have to take? (verse 4)
 - d. The four men we are looking at were given names to honor Babylon's gods. Why do you think this was done? (verses 6,7)
 - e. Even under the pressure of a conquering empire that had kidnapped him Daniel lived by his convictions. What did Daniel do? (verses 8) Why did he do this? (see below)

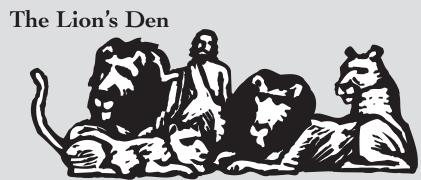
"Theirs was a life of luxury, not deprivation, for they were given a portion of food and wine daily from the king's own table. However, this food did not conform to the requirements of the Mosaic Law. The fact that it was prepared by Gentiles rendered it unclean. Also no doubt many things forbidden by the Law were served on the king's table, so to partake of such food would defile the Jewish youths. Further, without doubt this royal food had been sacrificed and offered to pagan gods before it was offered to the king. To partake of such food would be contrary to Exodus 34:15, where the Jews were forbidden to eat flesh sacrificed to pagan gods.

Similar problems would arise in drinking the wine. To abstain from the Old Testament prohibition against "strong drink" (e.g., Prov. 20:1, KJV; Isa. 5:11, "drinks"), Jews customarily diluted wine with water. Some added 3 parts of water to wine, others 6 parts, and some as much as 10 parts of water to 1 part of wine. The Babylonians did not dilute their wine. So both the food and the drink would have defiled these Jewish young men. Daniel knew the requirements of the Law governing what he should and should not eat and drink."

Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An exposition of the scriptures (Da 1:8).

"CALLED TO THE CAMPUS" WEEK 8

- 1. (continued)
 - e. Who did Daniel make an appeal to and what was their response? (verses 8-10)
 - f. Daniel stepped out in faith and proposed a test that was a 'creative alternative' to eating the king's food. (verses 11-16) What happened?
 - g. How did the Lord bless these men for their faithfulness to Him? (verses 18-21)
 - h. Why did these men stay faithful even under extreme circumstances? How had they impacted the man who guarded them so that he was willing to risk his life for their convictions? (see verses 10, 14)

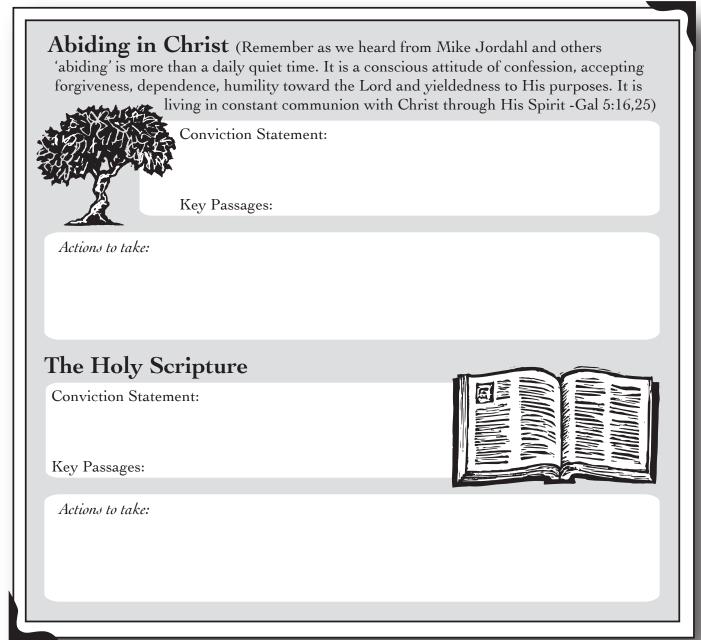


If you read on in the story of Daniel and his three friends you discover that their adventures are not over. In chapter 3, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are thrown into a fiery furnace because they will not bow

down to Nebuchadnezzar's idol. In chapter 6, Daniel himself is thrown into a den of lions because he will not alter his prayers to God. Their faithfulness to God is severely tested and the Lord preserves them. He also uses them as a witness to the leaders of Babylon and Persia and through them their whole kingdoms. Read Daniel chapter 2. What predicament are the four friends thrust into? What do they do? How do they operate as a team?



- 2. In looking at the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego we see that they worked in fellowship and were faithful to their convictions in a life threatening environment. These men banded together to pray and to take a stand for the God of Israel. Just like Daniel and his friends, you need the accountability and encouragement of like hearted men and women to live out your convictions. Write out below, who are those people for you back at your campus? What individuals and groups of people?
- 3. This summer each week you have studied a different aspect of walking with Christ and being a testimony for Him. Look back at each of your studies and in particular at the conviction statement you wrote at the end of each study. Rewrite each of those statements below, the key passages that inspire this conviction and what specific actions you will take back on campus to make your convictions a reality.



Relationships Conviction Statement:



Key Passages:

Actions to take:

Our Position & Identity in Christ

Conviction Statement:



Key Passages:

Actions to take:



Faith & the Power of Prayer

Conviction Statement:

Key Passages:

Actions to take:



Other-Centered Living

Conviction Statement:

Key Passages:

Actions to take:

The Great Commission & World Vision

Conviction Statement:



Key Passages:

Actions to take:

Called to the Campus

Finish at the end of this study.



Conviction Statement:

Key Passages:

Actions to take:

"Called to the Campus" Week 8

- 4. Have you ever been given a prayer request? A friend asks you to pray for something and you do because you care about them and what they care about. What if you met your favorite Christian singer or author and they gave you a prayer request, would you be faithful to pray for it? So here's something to think about, what if Jesus gave you a prayer request? Would you be willing to pray about what He cares about? (I've noticed you can tell where a person's heart is by what they pray about and what they ask you to pray about for them.)
 - a. Read Matthew 9:35-38. How does Jesus see people? (Although they may look like they have it all together every nonbeliever you meet is a sheep without the Sheperd.) What does Jesus ask us to pray for?
 - b. Look at John 17 in your Bible, this is the prayer he prayed the night before he went to the cross. Count every time he uses the pronouns THEY, THEM or THOSE. How many are there? What is on his heart? What does He care about? From John 17:4 what is the work that the Father gave Christ to do? Who are the people that God has placed on your heart to disciple?
- 5. At the close of his life, the apostle Paul is in prison and he writes to his son in the faith, Timothy (I Cor 4:17; Phil 2:22). There is an urgency to what Paul says as these are his last words to a dear brother and co-laborer. If you have time read the whole letter, if not just look at the passages below? What does Paul stress? What have you learned this summer about these same issues?
 - a. About the gospel... (II Timothy 1:8-12)
 - b. About training others... (II Timothy 2:1-8)
 - c. About the Word of God... (II Timothy 2:15; 3:15-17)
 - d. About character of life... (II Timothy 2:20-24)
 - e. About mentors in the faith... (II Timothy 3:14; 4:6-8)
 - f. About personal ministry... (II Timothy 2:25,26; 4:1,2,5)



The Fifty Foot Rope

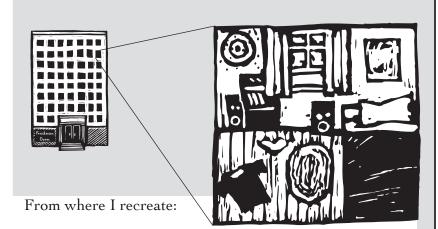
Drew Frazer, a friend of mine who leads the Nav ministry at the University of Colorado often speaks to students about impacting their sphere of influence. He holds up a fifty foot rope and challenges them to reach out for Christ to anyone who lives 50 feet from them in their residence hall or Greek house. You've discovered on the beaches and at your job this summer that the biggest barrier to you sharing the gospel has been in your own mind. Many are willing to consider the gospel if someone will just share it. What specifically will you do this fall to reach out 50 feet from where you live, study, work and recreate?

My Fifty Foot Rope:

From where I live:

From where I study:

From where I work:



6. **Conviction statement:** Write out an If/Then statement that embodies what you know to be true about what you have just studied about being called to the campus and your commitment to live out what you believe. (*Copy this in the box on page six under "Called to the Campus"*.)