

All Things New

And he who was seated on the throne said,
"Behold, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this down, for these words
are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:5

Name:

Note from Dan

What is Summer Training?

I really love youth group on Wednesday nights. But you know what is even better than youth group? Summer training. On Wednesday nights in the summer, we meet at RBC (during the normal youth group time) and go through this booklet. Every student who comes does the work for the week and we get to come together every Wednesday in pods to go through it. I really enjoy pod times-I love seeing and hearing what God is doing in your lives. It really is so encouraging for my own soul. Plus, we have five mission trips going out this summer. To be eligible for a trip, you have to complete this summer training booklet.

Why do we not do youth group, but we do summer training instead?

"Train yourself for godliness"--1 Timothy 4.8 says. During the summer, we want to take special time for students who want to go deeper and we want to help train you for godliness. We want to challenge you to seek Jesus more intentionally and faithfully. If you go to school, you train yourself in academics. If you play a sport, you train yourself in that sport's practice. Same for a music instrument, a musical, or taking the ACT. For this summer, we want to train you not for a sport or a grade (which has some value), but for godliness (which is valuable now and forever).

For those who have done summer training and are doing it again...

I hope that you grew in your love for Jesus during previous summer training. I am praying that God would grow you this summer to love Him and to live a life that brings Him greater glory. There are some familiar assignments this summer-and some new ones. Don't turn this booklet into simply a checklist-rushing to get everything done that you miss the point. Remember, these assignments aren't just tasks to complete, but they are opportunities to know God better.

For those unsure about doing summer training...

What better way could you use this summer? Seriously, even if you are unsure about Christianity, what better way than to spend 8 weeks doing a deep dive on seeking Jesus? It's so worth it, because Jesus is worth it. I can promise you won't regret it.





Love you guys,

Dan



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Booklet Online**

Summer Youth Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 ABF	9 	10	11 	12	13	14 
15 ABF	16 	17	18 	19	20	21 
22 ABF	23 	24	25 	26	27	28 
29 ABF 	30 					























June

Date

May 28
June 1/8/15/22/29
June 2/9/16/23/30
June 4/11/18/25
June 14
June 21
June 28
June 29

Event

Summer Training
Combined HS-MS ABF
HS Softball
Summer Training
Grad Parties (Carly T, Sydnie B, Jonathan N)
Grad Party (Taryn B)
Grad Party (Naomi T, Eden S)
Grad Party (Hailey N)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 	3	4	5
6 ABF	7 	8	9 	10	11 	12
13 ABF 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 	19 
20 ABF 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26 
27 ABF 	28 	29	30 	31 		

July

Date

July 2/9/16/30
July 6/13/20/27
July 13-18
July 11
July 19
July 20-25
July 22-28
July 23

Event

Summer Training
Combined HS-MS ABF
HS Ripley Trip
Grad Party (Lauren B)
Grad Party (Krystle P)
HS Missouri Trip
HS Honduras Trip
NO Summer Training

Summer Youth Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
August					1 	2 
3 ABF 	4 	5	6 	7 	8	9
10 ABF	11 	12	13	14	15	16
17 ABF	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27 	28	29	30

Date

July 31-August 3
August 3/10/17/24
August 4/11
August 6
August 7
August 24
August 27

Event

MS Outpost Trip
Combined MS-HS ABF
HS Guys Softball
One Final Night
HS Wibit Night
Youth Leader Meeting
Youth Leader Meeting

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 ABF	8	9	10 YG	11	12	13 
14 ABF 	15	16	17 YG	18	19	20
21 ABF	22	23	24 YG	25	26	27
28 ABF	29	30				

September

Date

September 10/17/24
September 7/14/21/28
September 13-14
September 25-28

Event

Youth Group
Combined MS-HS ABF
Ripley Welcome Weekend (HS only)
Project Serve (HS)

Outpost Overview

Description: The trip is available to our 7th grade and 8th grade students. We will partner with our local (Wisconsin) missionaries at Fort Wilderness. We'll do work projects around camp for roughly 6 hours a day, while also doing Bible studies and enjoying the activities Outpost has to offer.

Key Trip Information

Date: July 31-August 3, 2025

Introduce Trip/Hand Out Booklet: Wednesday, May 21

Assignments Due Date for Week 1: Wednesday, May 28

Students Eligible: 7th and 8th grade

Cost: \$100/student (talk to Dan if an issue)

Training Dates (10--can't miss more than 4)

May 21	Intro (6:15pm-8:15pm)
May 28	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 4	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 11	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 18	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 25	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 2	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 9	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 16	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 23	NONE-No Training
July 30	6:15pm-8:15pm

Leadership

Point Leader: Caleb Beilgard

Potential Guy Leaders: Carter L, Glendon, S, Pete M, Tyler C, Phil B

Potential Girl Leaders: Taylor W, Hannah T, Mary B, Erin T, Chrissy S

Outpost Training

6:15pm	Welcome/Announcements/Lesson (combined in youth room)
6:40pm	Pods
7:25pm	Group Time (in 4th grade room)
7:40pm	Game (just Outpost trip)
8:05pm	Singing (combined in youth room)
8:15pm	Prayer (in 4th grade room)



Missouri Overview

Description: The trip available to our students who are in 9th and 10th grade is our Missouri trip to CEF Headquarters in Warrenton. Students partner with international missionaries to spread the Good News of Jesus to every country on earth.

Key Trip Information

Date: July 20-25, 2025

Introduce Trip/Hand Out Booklet: Wednesday, May 21

Assignments Due Date for Week 1: Wednesday, May 28

Students Eligible: 9th grade girls and 10th graders

Cost: \$100/student (talk to Dan if an issue)

Training Dates (9--can't miss more than 3)

May 21	Intro (6:15pm-8:15pm)
May 28	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 4	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 11	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 18	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 25	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 2	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 9	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 16	6:15pm-8:15pm

Leadership

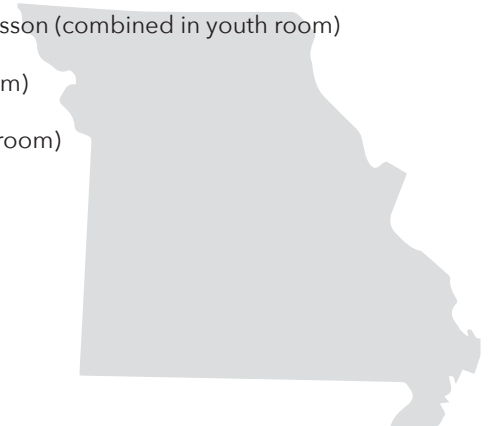
Point: Chris

Potential Guy Leaders: Joel J, Dan M, Rob D, Miguel C, Cameron W, Ace W

Potential Girl Leaders: Gloria C, Kaitlyn B, Kathy R

Missouri Training

6:15pm	Welcome/Announcements/Lesson (combined in youth room)
6:40pm	Pods
7:25pm	Group Time (in 2nd grade room)
7:40pm	Game (just Missouri trip)
8:05pm	Singing (all together in youth room)
8:15pm	Prayer (in 2nd grade room)



Ripley Overview

Description: Previously, students partnered with local and international missionaries. For this trip, students in 11th or 12th grade (and 10th grade girls) now get to dive into the disciple-making process for themselves. We rent a camp for 6 days and lead 3rd-6th grade students in a camp.

Key Trip Information

Date: July 13-18, 2025

Introduce Trip/Hand Out Booklet: Wednesday, May 21

Assignments Due Date for Week 1: Wednesday, May 28

Students Eligible: 11th graders

Cost: \$100/student (talk to Dan if an issue)

Training Dates (8--can't miss more than 2)

May 21	Intro (6:15pm-8:15pm)
May 28	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 4	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 11	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 18	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 25	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 2	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 9	6:15pm-8:15pm

Leadership

Point: Calvin

Potential Guy Leaders: Dan M, Joel J, Josh W

Potential Girl Leaders: Lauren M, Lindsey J, Kailey S

Ripley Training

6:15pm	Welcome/Announcements (combined in youth room)
6:40pm	Games (just Ripley training)
7:10pm	Group Time (in Wayne ABF room)
7:20pm	Pods
8:05pm	Singing (all together in youth room)
8:15pm	Prayer (in Wayne ABF room)



Honduras Overview

Description: Previously, students partnered with local and international missionaries and jumped into local disciple-making. In this capstone trip, students engage in international missions themselves. Students in 11th or 12th grade (and 10th grade girls) partner with our missionaries to get a firsthand glimpse of the global church overseas.

Key Trip Information

Date: July 22-29, 2025

Introduce Trip/Hand out Booklet: Wednesday, May 21

Assignments Due Date for Week : Wednesday, May 28

Students Eligible: 12th grade

Cost: \$400/student (talk to Dan if an issue)

Training Dates (8--can't miss more than 2)

May 21	Intro (6:15pm-8:15pm)
May 28	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 4	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 11	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 18	6:15pm-8:15pm
June 25	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 2	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 9	6:15pm-8:15pm
July 16	Meet at Possings

Leadership

Point: Ella D

Potential Guy Leaders: Denis P, Eric N, Calvin R, Diego T, Chase W

Potential Girl Leaders: Hannah W, Linda P, Abby L

Honduras Training

6:15pm	Welcome/Announcements (combined in youth room)
6:40pm	Games (just Honduras training)
7:10pm	Group Time (in 5th grade room)
7:20pm	Pods
8:05pm	Singing (all together in youth room)
8:15pm	Prayer (in 5th grade room)



ABF Schedule

(Combined HS-MS ABF 2nd Hour)

Date	Rotation	Fellowship 1	Facilitator	Passage	Teacher
5/25		No ABF - Memorial Day			
6/1	1	Doodle	Roger	Exodus 20	Cameron
6/8	2	Leader Roundtable	Kathy	Psalms 16	Carterw
6/15	1	Missions	Ella/Megan	Psalms 27	Papa K
6/22	2	New Song Sunday	Bryce	Psalms 45	Roger
6/29	1	Spotlights/Testimonies	Ella/Calvin	Psalms 46	Caleb
7/6	2	Spotlights/Testimonies	Ella/Calvin	Psalms 73	Chase
7/13	1	Spotlights/Testimonies, Ripley Prayer	Ella/Calvin/Dan	Psalms 90	Eric
7/20	2	Ripley Report, Missouri/Honduras Prayer	Calvin/Caleb	Psalms 98-100	Andrew
7/27	1	Missouri Report, Outpost Prayer	Chris/Calvin	Psalms 103	Calvin S
8/3	2	Honduras Report	Eric/Ella	Psalms 118	Weber
8/10	1	Outpost Report	Caleb/Calvin	Psalms 121, 123, 125	Caleb
8/17	2	Letters	Caleb/Pete	Psalms 127-128	TK
8/24		No ABF - Leader Meeting (10:30am - 1:00pm)			
8/31		No ABF			
9/7		First ABF of New Year			
1: Calvin, Kathy, Eric, Cameron, Megan, Joel, Lindsey, Ella, Brad, Jana, Glendon, Erin, Hannah T, Tyler, Papa K, Mama K, Rob, Nickie					
2: Bryce, Abby, Hannah W, Chase, Ashlyn, Weber, Jordan, Kaitlyn, Roger, Kristina, Carter, Taylor, Chris, Chrissy, Phil, Mary, Miguel, Gloria					

Expectations & Requirements

- 1 Students are expected to be present for the Wednesday night training. Students can miss a week or two, but need to tell a leader beforehand.
- 2 Students must complete all assignments (one week extension granted in some cases).
- 3 If students cannot attend trip, they can still come Wednesdays and participate.

Weekly Assignment Checklist

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10
Bible Reading										
Memory										
Sermon										
Book										
Discipline										
Fasting										
Prayer										
Journal										
Bonus										

Bible Reading

Thursday, May 22 (John 1:1-18)

Q: John tells us many people have rejected Jesus (v. 11) but that anyone who believes in and receives Jesus is a Christian. What does it mean to believe and receive Jesus-aka, how do you become a Christian?

Friday, May 23 (John 1:19-28)

Q: Only the lowest of slaves would untie people's sandals, so what does John the Baptist mean in v. 26-27?

Saturday, May 24 (John 1:29-34)

Q: Jesus is called the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (v. 29). Do you ever confess your sin to God? How regularly? What does it look like? When you do, do you thank Him and worship Him for forgiveness? Ask your leaders in pod time what they do. And leaders, be prepared to answer!

Sunday, May 25 (John 1:35-42)

Q: After Andrew meets Jesus (v. 40), he brings his brother Peter to Jesus (v. 41). Unlike Andrew, many Christians don't bring their friends and family to Jesus. What are 2 or 3 of your fears in bringing others to Jesus?

Monday, May 26 (John 1:43-51)

Q: Nathaniel is amazed by Jesus (v. 49). What is one amazing thing you have seen God do?

Tuesday, May 27 (John 2:1-12)

Q: The instructions that Mary gave to the servants are some of the best directions ever given (v. 5). Write down one simple way you can obey Jesus' command today and do it-and tell your pod tomorrow what you did.

Wednesday, May 28 (John 2:13-25)

Q: What sign has Jesus given us that we must believe and follow Him (v. 19-22)?

Memory (Revelation 21:1)

Sermon

Have you ever wondered what it means to live as a new creation in Christ, free from sin's power? Watch this sermon by John MacArthur called "Freedom from Sin: Dying to Live" (63 min) to find out!

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 1-2 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 1 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

Start each day with 60 seconds of Jesus (right when you wake up). Wake up and pray for 1 minute (set a timer if you need to). You can stand/sit/kneel/stay laying in bed. You can thank Jesus for a new day and all the blessings of your life. You can ask for help for what today will bring. You can pray for others. For this to count, you need to **do this at least 5 days in the first hour you are awake.**

Discipline: Encouraging Notes

This week, write an encouraging note to someone and give it to them-write down who you gave it to here:

Journal

What is one thing you want to happen this summer?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Ripley and Honduras: Serving

For those going to Ripley and Honduras, you will be serving in Crosswalk on 3 Sundays this summer. More info will be given to you, Calvin and Ella will put together a handout with all the information you need!

Bible Reading

Thursday, May 29 (John 3:1-15)

Q: What is required to enter heaven (v. 3)? Has this happened to you? When?

Friday, May 30 (John 3:16-21)

Q: John 3:16 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible—and it's clear that the only way to heaven is through Jesus. Why is Jesus the only way to heaven?

Saturday, May 31 (John 3:22-36)

Q: John the Baptist's disciples are jealous of Jesus and His popularity (v. 26). What is one thing that you have been jealous of recently?

Sunday, June 1 (John 4:1-26)

Q: This woman tries to find ultimate happiness in a relationship with a guy (v. 17-18). Nothing truly satisfies our souls but Jesus. What is one thing that you look to try to find ultimate happiness (besides Jesus)?

Monday, June 2 (John 4:27-45)

Q: As Jesus witnesses to this woman, the disciples come along with food. Jesus tells them that their real passion should not be for earthly things (like food), but in heavenly things (like sharing the gospel). Jesus says that people in need are all around us—waiting to be “harvested.” Who is one person you can pray for today who needs Jesus?

Tuesday, June 3 (John 4:46-54)

Q: This man wants Jesus to heal his son—who is about to die (v. 47). What is the response of the most compassionate Person who ever lived (Jesus) to this request (v. 48)? Why do you think Jesus responded this way?

Wednesday, June 4 (John 5:1-18)

Q: This man's biggest problem wasn't that he was paralyzed for 38 years (earthly problem). The biggest problem, v. 14 shows, was that he didn't repent (eternal problem). What does it mean to 'repent'?

Memory (Revelation 21:1-2)

Sermon

This week, listen to this sermon called “The Timing of Jesus” by Tim Keller (33 min) This sermon explores Jesus' timing in Mark 5:21-43 and how it reveals His love, tests our faith, and points to a deeper hope.

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 3-4 in “The Heart of Jesus” and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 2 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, pray with three people in person. You pray for them and have them pray for you. Write their names below:

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -

Discipline: Meditation Doodle

Roger Ross Summer Edition! Roger has taught us the value of meditating on God's Word and using art to marinate our minds in God's Word. In the back of your booklet or on a separate sheet of paper, draw/illustrate/doodle a picture or image from either Revelation 21 or John 1-4. Roger will do a doodle on Sunday during ABF to spark ideas. Your pod will vote on the best one—all the pod winners will be submitted to Roger Ross for a prize.

Journal

What is something about you that no one in your pod would know?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, June 5 (John 5:19-29)

Q: Verse 24 is a summary of the gospel. Put that verse in your own words and write that down here:

Friday, June 6 (John 5:30-47)

Q: The reason we need God's Word every day is not just because reading is a nice thing to do, but what is the whole Bible about (v. 39)? And where is life found (v. 40)?

Saturday, June 7 (John 6:1-15)

Q: Jesus tests Philip (v. 6) to see how Philip would react to trying to feed 20,000 people. Jesus wants Philip to see his total inability to do anything in that situation and to see his need for Jesus. Why is this important for Philip (and you) to learn?

Sunday, June 8 (John 6:16-21)

Q: What was a time that you knew that Jesus was with you in difficulty?

Monday, June 9 (John 6:22-40)

Q: What 'good work' should we do to get to heaven (v. 29)?

Tuesday, June 10 (John 6:41-59)

Q: What does it mean that Jesus is the "Bread of Life" (v. 48)?

Wednesday, June 11 (John 6:60-71)

Q: Who is someone who you have seen start to follow Jesus and then turn back and no longer walk with Him (6.66)? Pray for them now.

Memory (Revelation 21:1-3)

Sermon

Listen to this sermon called "Think Hard, Stay Humble" by Francis Chan (67 min). This sermon speaks to those who are right in knowledge but wrong in heart.

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 5-6 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 3 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, end each day with 60 seconds of Jesus (when you go to bed). As you prepare to get into bed, pray for 1 minute (set a timer if you need to). You can thank Jesus for the good things of the day and bring any concerns or worries to Him in prayer. You can pray for others. For this to count, you need to do this at least 5 days out of the week.

Discipline: Worship

Listen to each worship song-and truly worship Jesus as you listen:

Thursday: Behold Our God

Friday: All Glory Be to Christ

Saturday: Before the Throne of God Above

Sunday: Only a Holy God

Monday: Abide

Tuesday: We Give Thanks (Psalm 107)

Journal

If you could see God save someone, who would it be and why?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, June 12 (John 7:1-13)

Q: Fear can keep us from talking about Jesus (v. 13). Today, take the lead in starting a spiritual conversation with someone (it can be family/friend/etc). Write down who you talked with and what you talked about.

Friday, June 13 (John 7:14-24)

Q: What is the difference between right judging and bad judging (by appearances) (v. 24)?

Saturday, June 14 (John 7:25-36)

Q: In v. 29, Jesus talks about His relationship with the Father. What is your relationship with God like?

Sunday, June 15 (John 7:37-52)

Q: In v. 37, Jesus appeals to the whole crowd to come to Him and drink. Only Jesus can satisfy our ultimate thirst. If Christ isn't satisfying us, we will turn to something else. What is one thing that you are looking to for life and satisfaction?

Monday, June 16 (John 8:1-11)

Q: When Jesus says "Neither do I condemn you", He's not saying it doesn't matter if you sin. He's saying that righteousness is being re-established in her life. She deserves to die for her sin. But now, she's met the forgiving Savior. She has met grace. How has Jesus' grace changed your life?

Tuesday, June 17 (John 8:12-20)

Q: In v. 14, Jesus says that He can be trusted because He knows where He came from and He knows where He is going. We as humans have a small and limited view of history and the universe. What are 3 wrong ideas people have of where humanity came from or what happens to humans after we die?

Wednesday, June 18 (John 8:21-30)

Q: What is one way that you look like or reflect your earthly parents? What is one way that you reflect your heavenly Father (v. 28)?

Memory (Revelation 21:1-4)

Sermon

This week, listen to a sermon by Tim Keller called "Finding God" (46 min). Psalm 42 offers hope when God feels distant and faith feels dry.

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 7-8 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 4 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, pray with three people in person. You pray for them and have them pray for you. Write their names below:

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -

Discipline: Fasting from Social Media

This week, fast from social media. All week, take a break from all social media.

Journal

What is your biggest pet peeve? (Something that really annoys you.)

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, June 19 (John 8:31-47)

Q: Jesus rips the religious hypocrites in two ways: He calls them slaves to sin (v. 34) and He says that His Word has no place in their lives (v. 37). Does this describe you-why or why not?

Friday, June 20 (John 8:48-59)

Q: You may have noticed, but one thing John is doing in writing this book is contrasting true Christians with those who just claim to be Christians. Jesus says that one mark of true Christian is that they obey (they keep My Word-v. 51). What is one way God has changed you so that you keep God's Word?

Saturday, June 21 (John 9:1-12)

Q: Jesus uses problems, suffering, and limitations for what reason (v. 3)? Can you think of an example of this from your own life?

Sunday, June 22 (John 9:13-23)

Q: Rather than celebrate and worship Jesus because of the incredible miracle, the religious leaders criticize Jesus. On a scale of 1-10, how big of a problem is criticizing others in your life?

Monday, June 23 (John 9:24-41)

Q: What progression do you see in the blind man from the start of the story until the end? How does he view Jesus by the end of the story? What is the progression of your own life towards Jesus? Looking back, how has Jesus grown you?

Tuesday, June 24 (John 10:1-21)

Q: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What does Jesus do because He is the Good Shepherd (v. 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)? Which one is your favorite?

Wednesday, June 25 (John 10:22-30)

Q: Can you lose your salvation (v. 28-29)? Why or why not?

Memory (Revelation 21:1-5)

Sermon

Listen to this sermon by Sam Emadi called "Dead Serious about Eternal Life" (47 Min). This is one of my (Calvin) favorite sermons on one of my favorite Psalms (16).

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 9-10 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 5 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, pray out loud for at least a minute every day. Praying out loud helps to focus our time with God, keep us from rambling, and can help us pray better. For this to count, you have to have done this on at least five days.

Discipline: Pick a bonus OR Silence and Solitude

This week, as a pod, pick a bonus from the back of this booklet. Or, if you'd prefer, spend one straight hour with Jesus. This is sometimes called 'silence and solitude' (because you get away from distractions). You can work on Bible reading or verse memory or listen to the sermon during this time or listen to worship music or journal or pray or read. Be with Jesus for 1 hour and write down below how it went:

Journal

What is the most meaningful gift you have ever gotten?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, June 26 (John 10:30-42)

Q: What does Jesus say about His identity (v. 30, 33, 36, 38)? Why is this important?

Friday, June 27 (John 11:1-16)

Q: Tough one—even though Jesus knew Lazarus was sick (v. 6), why did He stay where He was two extra days?

Saturday, June 28 (John 11:17-27)

Q: Martha tells Jesus she “knows” (v. 24). Jesus asks her if she believes (v. 26). What is the difference between knowing and believing?

Sunday, June 29 (John 11:28-44)

Q: For continued spiritual life and health, we need to see the glory of God (v. 40). How can we see the glory of God? What is an example?

Monday, June 30 (John 11:45-57)

Q: These verses show us why the Pharisees don’t like Jesus. The reason: they were enjoying popularity in society and didn’t want to lose that popularity because of Jesus (v. 47-48). What is one way that following Jesus is unpopular? Why?

Tuesday, July 1 (John 12:1-11)

Q: Mary shows lavish, incredible love for Jesus in the story. What is one way you can show lavish love to Jesus today? Write it down, do it, and tell your pod how it went.

Wednesday, July 2 (John 12:12-19)

Q: Listen to the song “Come Yeshua” by Mercy Gordon and Joshua Aaron. Make the song a prayer to God as you listen to it/sing it.

Memory (Revelation 21:1-6)

Sermon

Listen to this sermon called “Make War - Killing Sin” By John Piper (67 Min). This sermon reminds us that killing sin is essential to spiritual life and joy.

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 11-12 in “The Heart of Jesus” and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 6 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, pray with three people in person. You pray for them and have them pray for you. Write their names below:

1 -

2 -

3 -

Discipline: Meditation

Towards the back of this booklet, there are 17 different ways that are listed under “Methods of Meditation on Scripture”. Use 3 different methods on 3 different days and meditate on Revelation 21. Write down which 3 you used below:

Journal

What is your favorite youth group memory?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, July 3 (John 12:20-36)

Q: Jesus calls out to you today, if you don't believe, believe while you still have time (v. 35-36). Are you a child of light (v. 36)? How does it show?

Friday, July 4 (John 12:37-50)

Q: Even though Jesus is the Son of God, the Bible says that few believed in Him (v. 37). Why did they not believe in Jesus (v. 38-40)? What does this strong language tell us about God?

Saturday, July 5 (John 13:1-20)

Q: In v. 7, Jesus tells Peter that Peter won't understand what Jesus is doing now, but later on, he will understand. Can you think of an example from your life where you didn't understand what God was doing-but later, you did?

Sunday, July 6 (John 13:21-30)

Q: Jesus knew Judas would betray Him-and that would die on a cross as a result of it. Yet, Jesus still loved Judas and washed Judas' feet. Who is someone who is hard for you to love? Pray for them right now.

Monday, July 7 (John 13:31-38)

Q: What is one clear mark of someone who is a Christian (v. 35)?

Tuesday, July 8 (John 14:1-14)

Q: Jesus reminds the disciples of heaven to keep their hearts from being troubled (v. 1). What is one thing that is troubling your heart today?

Wednesday, July 9 (John 14:15-31)

Q: Jesus starts off very clear and right to the point and repeats His point in case we missed it. A lot of people say they love Jesus. Jesus knows who truly loves Him. How can we tell (v. 15, 21, 23, 24)?

Memory (Revelation 21:1-7)

Sermon

Listen to this sermon by Tim Keller called "Struggle: Thy Will be Done" (51 minutes). Keller highlights how praying "thy will be done" transforms us by aligning our wills with God's.

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 13-14 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 7 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week is a hard one-pray for 30 minutes straight. This is a long time, but it is so good! God loves it when we talk with Him. You can pray for whatever you want, but one idea is to use the "How to Pray for a half-hour" idea from the back of this booklet. With the fasting below, you may have extra time to set aside to pray. After you pray, write down how it went below:

Discipline: Fasting-You Pick One

This week, fast from something-you pick (share in your pod before you start). It could be video games, social media, secular music, screen time, sports, or something else. Pick something that fits you and that can compete with your focus on Jesus - and fast from it for a week.

Journal

What is the most embarrassing moment from your childhood?

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Bible Reading

Thursday, July 10 (John 15:1-17)

Q: By following what Jesus says in v. 9-11, there is a great reward. Jesus says that we can have full joy. Our joy is full when we abide in Jesus' love for us. How do we abide in God's love (v. 10)?

Friday, July 11 (John 15:18-27)

Q: The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (v.26). Can you think of a time God convicted you of sin?

Saturday, July 12 (John 16:1-15)

Q: The Holy Spirit will guide Christians into the truth (v. 13). He uses the Bible and gives us understanding of the Bible so that we can know Him. Pause now and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand His Word. Pray and ask Him to convict you of sin. Ask Him to help you understand the Bible-then go re-read v. 1-15.

Sunday, July 13 (John 16:16-24)

Q: This is the fifth and sixth verses in this section from Jesus about the openness of prayer (14:13, 14:14, 15:7, 15:16, 16:23, 16:24). What is Jesus trying to teach us about prayer?

Monday, July 14 (John 16:25-33)

Q: Even after this great time with Jesus in John 13-16, the disciples still abandon Jesus moments later-in the time they were most needed! What is one time when you are tempted to stay away from God?

Tuesday, July 15 (John 17:1-5)

Q: Sometimes, we think about eternal life as in the future only. But eternal life also includes what (v. 3)?

Wednesday, July 16 (John 17:6-19)

Q: Jesus prays that the disciples would be in the world (not avoiding non-Christians), but not live live the world (in sin and compromise) (v. 15). Which is your bigger weak spot-avoiding the world or looking like the world?

Memory (Revelation 21:1-7)

Sermon

Listen to this sermon by John Piper called "Jesus Came Not to Give Bread, But to Be Bread" (48 min).

Write down one thing that stood out to you from the sermon.



Book

Read the intro and chapters 15-16 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 8 of *The Hole in Our Holiness*)

Prayer

This week, pray with three people in person. You pray for them and have them pray for you. Write their names below:

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -

Discipline: Serve Your Family

In pods before the week, pick 1 way you will serve your family this week. This needs to be over and above your normal chores/responsibilities. Write how it went here:

Journal

What are your top 3 favorite restaurants? What is your least favorite? List all 4, and see if your group can guess your least favorite.

One way God has been good to you this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Thursday, July 17

1. Read John 17:20-26

Q: As much as the Father loves Jesus, that's as much as God loves who (v. 23)?

2. Pray for the Ripley team, as they finish up camp and prepare to come home tomorrow.

Friday, July 18

1. Read John 18:1-14

Q: Peter knew that Jesus was the Messiah and Peter thought this was the time Jesus was going to take down the Roman armies, so he starts helping Jesus (v. 10-11). How is Jesus a different Messiah than what Peter thought He would be?

2. Using the page in the back of this booklet, make a list of 100 things you are thankful to Jesus for.

Saturday, July 19

1. Read John 18:15-27

Q: Pause and thank Jesus for what He did for you. Jesus deserved none of the treatment that He got in this chapter or the next few (look at v. 22)--yet He did it for you. Thank Him for His love today.

2. Read chapters 17-18 in "The Heart of Jesus" and write down one question you have OR one highlight and why it stood out to you. (Honduras: Read chapter 9 of The Hole in Our Holiness)

Sunday, July 20

1. Read John 18:28-40

Q: What did Peter promise to do hours earlier for Jesus (John 13.37)? What did Peter do here that contradicted what he said (v. 25-27)? Why did Peter do it?

2. Pray for the Missouri team-leaving for CEF today.

Monday, July 21

1. Read John 19:1-16

Q: What is Pilate going through in this story? Which side is he on? Does he switch sides? Why is Pilate going through this? What are his feelings on Jesus?

2. Pray for Dan and his family.

Tuesday, July 22

1. Read John 19:17-27

Q: The inscription of above a person on the cross was there to list a person's crimes. What was on Jesus' inscription (v. 19-22)? Why did it read this way?

2. Pray for the seniors as they travel to Honduras today.

Wednesday, July 23

1. Read John 19:28-37

Q: John wants us to know that this account of Jesus is not speculation, a myth, or a fairy tale. It is true. So, he includes the eyewitness testimony of Jesus' actual death (v. 33-34). Why is it so important that Jesus died?

2. Journal
One way God has been good to you this week:

One thing you are thankful to God for this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Thursday, July 24

1. Read John 19:38-42

Q: Joseph was secretly a follower of Jesus, but Jesus' death made Him bold to declare that he was a disciple of Jesus. Jesus' death should give you boldness to let everyone know whom you follow. On a scale of 1-10, how bold are you? Does everyone in your life know that you boldly follow Jesus?

2. Do something kind for one of your siblings today. Write what you did here:

Friday, July 25

1. Read John 20:1-10

Q: What are two reasons that the resurrection is so important?

2. Pray for the Missouri team as they prepare to come home tonight. Pray that God would grow them to love Jesus more and more.

Saturday, July 26

1. Read John 20:11-18

Q: What is the first thing Mary did after seeing Jesus again (v. 18)? Who is someone in your life who needs to hear that Jesus has conquered sin and death? Write their name below and pray for them now.

2. Pray for the Outpost team as they prepare to leave in a few days—ask God to save someone on the trip.

Sunday, July 27

1. Read John 20:19-31

Q: What are the two purposes that John had in writing this Gospel (v. 31)?

2. Pray with someone else today at church—not for them, but pray with them.

Monday, July 28

1. Read John 21:1-14

Q: What kind of desperation does Peter show towards Jesus (v. 7). Do you love Jesus this much? What is one way you can show this kind of love for Jesus?

2. Journal

One way God has been good to you this week:

One thing you are thankful to God for this week:

One way you saw God work in someone else this week:

Tuesday, July 29

1. Read John 21:15-19

Q: You love Jesus by caring for His sheep (other Christians). Who is one Christian that you can show love to today? How? Write it down and do it and share in pods tonight.

2. Pray for the Honduras team as they are prepared to come home tonight. Pray that they would grow in their love for Jesus as they come home.

Wednesday, July 30

1. Read John 21:20-25

Q: Peter wonders if Jesus is unfair (v. 21). What is Jesus' response (v. 22)? How can this help you when you wonder if life is unfair?

2. Pray for youth group tonight. Pray that those who have grown this summer would grow even stronger in Jesus this fall.

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, July 31 (James 1:1-4)

Q: What is one example of how to have joy in a hard time in your life?

Friday, August 1 (James 1:5-8)

Q: What is one way that you need wisdom today? Pray now and ask God for it.

Saturday, August 2 (James 1:9-11)

Q: All the good stuff you have in this life will fade. How should that shape your view of this life?

Sunday, August 3 (James 1:12-15)

Q: The crown of life is given to those who don't fall away in hard times. Ask God to give you steadfast endurance today. Text someone and encourage them with this verse.

Monday, August 4 (James 1:16-18)

Q: What are five good gifts that God has given you? Write them here:

Tuesday, August 5 (James 1:19-21)

Q: Which one of those three in v. 19 is easiest for you? Which one is hardest?

Wednesday, August 6 (James 1:1-21) *(read the whole section again)*

Q: Tonight is One Final Night. Pray for one of the seniors (or better, pray with one of the seniors tonight).

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, August 7 (James 1:22-25)

Q: What is one example that you can think of (in your own life or someone else around you) who heard the truth, but didn't do it (v. 22)?

Friday, August 8 (James 1:26-28)

Q: What is one way you've seen God change you to help you speak better (examples: gossip, making fun of others, provoking people to anger, swearing, boasting, afraid to speak up, more encouraging words, less tearing down others, criticizing, judging, witnessing, etc)? Thank Him for that now.

Saturday, August 9 (James 1) *(read the whole chapter)*

Q: What is your favorite verse in this chapter? Why?

Sunday, August 10 (James 2:1-7)

Q: Who are you prone to show favoritism to?

Monday, August 11 (James 2:8-10)

Q: Who is someone that is hard for you to love in the youth group? Pray for them now. Tom Schreiner even encourage us to pray: "God bless _____ more than you bless me!" That's so hard, but pray for that person that way today.

Tuesday, August 12 (James 2:11-13)

Q: Has God shown you mercy or are you headed for judgment (v. 13)? How do you know?

Wednesday, August 13 (James 2:14-17)

Q: If you say you are a Christian, but don't live it out-what is really true (v. 17)?

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, August 14 (James 2:18-19)

Q: What is the difference between demon faith and saving faith (v. 19)?

Friday, August 15 (James 2:20-26)

Q: Faith that saves also changes the way we live (v. 22-24). Who is one person you saw God save and the change in their life was clear?

Saturday, August 16 (James 2) *(read the whole chapter)*

Q: What is your favorite verse in this chapter? Why?

Sunday, August 17 (James 3:1-5)

Q: What is the warning given for those who want to teach (v. 1)?

Monday, August 18 (James 3:6-8)

Q: What is one way that your tongue has caused a problem in your life, like a fire (v. 6)?

Tuesday, August 19 (James 3:9-12)

Q: Ask God for a united heart and a united tongue—that isn't hypocritical (v. 10).

Wednesday, August 20 (James 3:13-18)

Q: What two marks are in a wise person's life (v. 13)?

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, August 21 (James 3 - read the whole chapter)

Q: What is your favorite verse in this chapter? Why?

Friday, August 22 (James 4:1-3)

Q: What is the reason you argue with others and don't get along with others (v. 1)?

Saturday, August 23 (James 4:4-5)

Q: What is one way that worldliness pulls at your heart?

Sunday, August 24 (James 4:6-10)

Q: What does humility look like? Ask God for more grace today?

Monday, August 25 (James 4:6-10 - again)

Q: Write out the ten commands God gives here? How do these draw us back to God when we stray?

Tuesday, August 26 (James 4:11-12)

Q: Can you think of anyone that you have spoken evil against? Ask God for help to guard your tongue—and go speak well of that person today.

Wednesday, August 27 (James 4:13-17)

Q: Give an example of verse 17.

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, August 28 (James 4) *(read the whole chapter)*

Q: What is your favorite verse in this chapter? Why?

Friday, August 29 (James 5:1-3)

Q: The world loves wealth and glamorizes it. God's Word does not (v. 1-3). Why do you think there is a difference?

Saturday, August 30 (James 5:4-6)

Q: The word "self-indulgence" shows up in v. 5. What does that word mean? How does that show up in your life?

Sunday, August 31 (James 5:7-10)

Q: Grumbling is so hard to get rid of from your life. How does patience help with grumbling?

Monday, September 1 (James 5:11-12)

Q: Is true, biblical honesty an issue for you? Why or why not?

Tuesday, September 2 (James 5:13-14)

Q: Who is someone who is sick that you know? Pray for them now.

Wednesday, September 3 (James 5:15-18)

Q: As we walk in holiness, we see more and more answered prayer. What is one prayer that you have seen answered in your own life recently?

Bible Reading Plan

Thursday, September 4 (James 5:19-20)

Q: Who is someone who has wandered from the truth? Write their name down and pray for them now.

Friday, September 5 (James 5) *(read the whole chapter)*

Q: What is your favorite verse in this chapter? Why?

Saturday, September 6 (James 1)

Q: How does a half-hearted spiritual walk vs a whole-hearted spiritual walk show up in this chapter?

Sunday, September 7 (James 2)

Q: How does a half-hearted spiritual walk vs a whole-hearted spiritual walk show up in this chapter?

Monday, September 8 (James 3)

Q: How does a half-hearted spiritual walk vs a whole-hearted spiritual walk show up in this chapter?

Tuesday, September 9 (James 4)

Q: How does a half-hearted spiritual walk vs a whole-hearted spiritual walk show up in this chapter?

Wednesday, September 10 (James 5)

Q: How does a half-hearted spiritual walk vs a whole-hearted spiritual walk show up in this chapter?

Bonus Ideas

Journal

Write something down every day before you go to bed. Maybe something exciting, something on your mind, or just a general summary of the day.

Disciple a Middle Schooler

Take a middle schooler out to eat or hang out with them and encourage them. Whether you realize it or not, they look up to you!

Gratitude

Write down 50 things you are thankful for. Oftentimes we forget how good God has been to us, and this is a good way to be reminded how faithful he has been to us.

Yard Work

Have your pod find someone in the church who could use help. Maybe this is a widow, someone struggling through trials, or someone who can't do physical labor. Maybe you just want to bless someone together as a pod. If you don't have ideas, text Micah Vining (425-523-4984) to help you get hooked up with someone who could use the help.

Generosity

As a pod, go out to eat, and when it comes time to pay the bill, work together to leave a huge tip for the waiter/waitress. If they thank you or are overwhelmed, use it as an opportunity to share the gospel, pray for them, or invite them to church!

Mystery

If you choose this, your pod leaders get to decide what your bonus for the week is. Do you trust them?

Silence and Solitude

Get alone with the Lord for an hour this week with no distractions (phone, siblings, etc.) and pour your heart out to him. Bring your Bible and maybe a journal and just spill what is on your heart.

Senior Visit

As a pod visit an older member of our church. There are plenty of people who are not able to get out often, and even a short visit would be tremendously encouraging to them (And probably you too!) Be sure to call ahead.

Cemetery

Caleb will take your pod to the cemetery. Limited number of trips available, but he will show you why he enjoys silence and solitude there and what God has shown him.

Fast from a Meal

Take a meal of not eating food to focus on Jesus when you are hungry. This can allow for continual reminders of our need for Jesus and his grace, causing us to be dependent on Him.

Bonus Ideas

Secular Music Fast

This week, take a break from secular (non-Christian) music. Use this as an opportunity to listen to Christian music, sermons or podcasts!

Leader Note

Your leaders love you and spend so much time building into you and hanging with you. Write a note to a leader on why you are thankful for them or your favorite memory with them.

Discipline of Tongue

This week pick one area of your speech life that needs change. Make a resolution that you will keep for the week that will challenge your tongue. Be prepared to discuss with the group.

Digital Fellowship

For this, pick another Christian and have fellowship with them through email, text, Facebook, etc. Fellowship is talking about Jesus together, so behold Jesus with another believer.

Share the Gospel

Jesus tells us to make disciples, yet we rarely step out and tell people about what Jesus has done for us. This week, talk to someone who doesn't know Jesus and tell them how he has changed your life. The memory verses can help walk through the gospel outline.

Bible Study

Get together with a small group (maybe your pod) during the week and read a chapter of the Bible together and talk about it.

Bake Brennan Uthe a Cake

Together as a pod, bake a cake for Brennan Uthe. He is one of the most joyful Christians, and he is a pastor here at RBC.

Aiding Alliance

Text/call Taylor (414-374-6001) as a pod and see what jobs or service projects are available.

Meditate on Scripture

How often do you read the Bible and later that day you can't remember what you read? For me, this used to happen ALL the time. This doesn't mean that you aren't smart or aren't a Christian, but it does mean you need to find a method to meditate on scripture better. Try these methods so that at the end of the day, you will be able to answer the question "What did I read today?"

Meditation on Scripture

Summary of the methods of meditation on Scripture taught by Don Whitney.

Begin by selecting a passage for meditation from your time of reading God's Word. Choose a verse or phrase that attracted your attention, or a theme verse or key verse from the passage.

1. Emphasize different words in the text.

Whatever He says to you do it (John 2:5).

Whatever **He** says to you do it.

Whatever He **says** to you do it.

Whatever He says **to** you do it.

Whatever He says to **you** do it.

Whatever He says to you **do** it.

Whatever He says to you do **it**.

2. Rewrite the verse or phrase in your own words.

3. Formulate a principle from the text—What does it teach?

4. Think of an illustration of the text—What pictures or explains it?

5. Look for applications of the text—What should you do in response to it?

6. Ask how the text points to the Law or the Gospel.

7. Ask how the text points to something about Jesus.

8. Ask what question is answered or problem is solved by the text.

9. Pray through the text.

10. Memorize the text.

11. Create an artistic expression of the text—a song, poem, or sketch.

12. Ask the Philippians 4:8 questions of the text.

What is true or what truth does it exemplify? What is lovely about it? What is honorable about it? What is admirable or commendable about it? What is right about it? What is excellent about it? What is pure or how does it exemplify purity? What is praiseworthy about it?

13. Ask the "Joseph Hall" questions of the text. What is it (define and/or describe what it is)? What are its qualities and attachments? What are its divisions or parts? What is contrary, contradictory or different to it? What causes it? What compares to it? What does it cause (its fruits and effects)? What its titles or names? What is its place, location or use? What are the testimonies or examples of Scripture about it?

14. Set and Discover a minimum number of insights from the text (set the number in advance).

15. Find a link/common thread between all the chapters/paragraphs you've read.

16. Ask how the text speaks to your current issue or question.

17. Use Meditation Mapping.

A. Put the verse(s), phrase, word or topic to be meditated upon in the middle of the page. (When possible, this should be done in picture form.)

B. Allow insights, ideas and thoughts to come quickly and freely.

C. Use key words to represent your ideas.

D. Connect your key words ideas to the central focus with lines.

E. Use as few words per line as possible.

F. P-r-i-n-t all the words for easier reading.

G. Use color for emphasis and recall.

H. Make frequent use of symbols and pictures in addition to words.

18. Push a notification to your phone every hour to remind yourself of the verse.

19. Talk about the verse with someone else.

20. Grab a devotion book off of the resource wall and slowly read what it says.

Elder & Deacon List

Elders (and their wives):

Darien and Libby Bowers

Wayne and Carol Beilgard

Brennan and Sarah Uthe

Steve and Liz Miller

John and Judy Anderson

Chuck and Sue Kuiper

Jeremy and Sarah Dulak

Chuck and Cynthia Cornell

Paul and AJ Anderson

Brad and Gail Tubbs

Dan and Lauren Miller

Deacons (and their wives):

Kirk and Tean Andersen

Steve and Anne Hall

Maynard and Doreen Dulak

Bryan and Katrina Roedema

Randy and Toni Savaglio

Josh and Maribeth Oezer

Joe and Laurel Makovsky

George and Angela Shimada

Jim and Kim Bergman

Ken and Melva Olsen

Dan and Heidi Mason

Leo and Sue Juzenas

100 Things You're Thankful For

Meditation Doodle Space

More Than Go-ers and Send-ers by Zach Bradley

Over the past decade, John Piper's categorical way of thinking about missions and the local church has invigorated countless people. Originating from Bethlehem Baptist Church's "Driving Convictions Behind Foreign Missions," the decisive paradigm places one of three roles on every Christian when it comes to missions.

Goers: those "who cross a culture to plant the church where it isn't."

Senders: those "fundraising, giving, praying, & supporting those who go."

Disobedient: those "who don't even think about it and don't care about it"

I am grateful Piper clarified and specified international missions involvement in this way. I believe it allowed many to see that everyone has a role to play in the Great Commission. It has also been one of the best attempts I've ever known to affirm sending as noble, vital, and meaningful. And it expresses the biting reality that uninvolved Christians are actually disobedient to Christ's command to make disciples of all nations.

But I also believe there's a better way to think about this. You and your fellow church members are more than senders, goers, or disobedient. Here's why.

Every Christian Is Sent

We love to say that God is a "missionary God." But that's limited by our pragmatism. More broadly we could say that God is a loving, outgoing God. His love is richly shared from eternity past among Father, Son, and Spirit (John 17:24). From his loving, overflowing nature, God sent. The Father sent the Son, the Father and Son sent the Spirit, and the Father, Son, and Spirit send the church.

So I believe we can more aptly say that God is a sending God. That means every single one of his sons and daughters, by the image of God that they bear, are sent ones. Sent ones aren't limited to those who cross cultural and linguistic barriers to proclaim the gospel. All of us are sent on God's mission, yoked with the Great Commission (Matt. 5:14; 2 Cor. 5:20).

Missions Is More Than Practice—It's Also Identity

In the world of international missions, we tend to be rather pragmatic. We aren't just desperate to talk about getting the gospel to those who haven't heard. We actually want to get it there—yesterday.

We want action. The Bible commands it. The lost need it. And so we are drawn to practical categories such as goers, senders, and disobedient. But as my former professor Bruce Ware boomed with a slap to the lectern, "There is no such thing as 'practical theology'—all theology is practical if you really believe it!"

Skipping ahead to the practice of missions misses the powerful theological-missiological identity of every Christian. Our historical limitations on sending may have more to do with the failure to cultivate the sent identity of every Christian than the failure to provide more avenues, funds, or training.

Emphasizing Practice over Identity Limits the Mission

Ignoring, or at least downplaying, missions identity leads each Christian to focus mainly on their deeds (or lack thereof). While there are certainly biblical grounds for true faith being expressed by action (John 14:15; Eph. 2:10, James 1:22), the New Testament never separates what we do for God from what God does for us. The truths and implications of the gospel inform and empower our obedience to Christ. Focusing primarily on our deeds in regard to international missions can be crippling. For those who aren't missionaries, even the appearance of their lack of deeds can be guilt-inducing enough to distance them not only from the Great Commission, but from God himself. For those who are missionaries, the temptation to admire their surplus of deeds, even subtly, can lead to pride that alienates them from others as well as the delights of the gospel.

Being Disobedient Is More Than Just Being Disobedient

Disobeying the Great Commission isn't just neglecting a command. It's a denial of who we are in Christ. I am not saying that if you don't actively share the gospel you're probably not a Christian. I am saying, however, that if our identity as sent ones informs all of life, then "disobedience" reflects an identity crisis that needs discipleship and pastoral care.

Goers Are Not an Elite Band

When describing both goers and senders, Piper uses the term "an elite band." He goes on to say in reference to goers, "I do love and esteem them highly." While at the Cross Conference in 2013, I listened to an interview with Piper in which he noted the danger of overemphasizing goers above senders, but then went on to define goers only as frontier missionaries. He also then comparatively downplayed his own role in the church and called pastoral ministry "the back end of the Great Commission" while the crowd snickered at the pun.

Whether intentional or not, the message was clear to the college students sitting around me: traditional frontier goers are the true elite. This kind of communication lends itself toward a "culture of hierarchy and privilege," as illustrated in Tradecraft: For the Church on Mission (p. 15). As much as I love "goers" and want to maintain my own admired status as one, I see how such categories create a caste system that immobilizes the church more than builds her up and sends her out.

We All Cross Cultural Boundaries

Unbeknownst to many of us, we all navigate a maze of culture and subculture. Every environment in which we exist has its own unique context and jargon, from our homes to our workplaces to our favorite coffee shops.

However, few of us have ever been trained to notice or interpret such differences. Therefore, in the church we assume our understanding of cultural context simply because we live in the neighborhood and speak the language. Cross-cultural training is only for "goers" rather than being a common part of every believer's discipleship.

It is this "cultural distance [that] keeps 'Unreached Peoples' being names on a list instead of being our friends, coworkers, and neighbors". If, instead, all believers are sent ones and are already crossing some measure of cultural boundaries,

then churches have the perfect setup to mobilize every member rather than only a select few.

Christians Can Both Send and Go

Although the sender-goer paradigm doesn't preclude people from changing categories, it does infer fulfilling only one role at a time. When sentness becomes a way of life, sending and going are simultaneously possible. Church members can more easily move from having a global worldview to being a global Christian. They can champion those sent to other countries while also experiencing the same gospel advance in their own contexts.

Global sent ones can experience new depths of their own sentness while making disciples who will themselves be goers that carry the gospel even further. Furthermore, the relationships between global sent ones and local sent ones could likely be healthier and ongoing, full of mutual understanding and encouragement.

Perhaps this comes across as splitting hairs. Certainly it could be taken as unnecessary divisiveness or missiological commentary that means nothing to a world in desperate need. But if we fail to build upon the foundation of thought that has been given to us in God's mission, then we will continue to approach a 2018 world with a 1994 perspective. And we may fail to marvel over our identity as sons and daughters of our sending God.

Other Resources



**RBC Youth Group
Spotify Playlist**



**What is the
Gospel?**



**How to Pray
the Bible**



Desiring God
*(helpful articles, podcasts,
sermons, and videos)*



Bible Project
(Bible overview videos)



Knowing Faith Podcast
*(Explores how our faith is
rooted in Scripture)*



**Video of Calvin slipping on
the ice going into school.**

Bible Memory Tips

For those who have never memorized or feel they have a bad memory, you may find these tips helpful in memorizing. This specific method is drawn from a guy named Andy Davis, and it is widely used by respected pastors.

1. Ask God to help you memorize. Before you start trying to memorize, pray that God would make your mind sharp and help you to remember the verse(s) you are trying to memorize.
2. Read it 10 times in a row, with your eyes reading each word intentionally every time.
3. After this, close your bible and try to recite it from memory 10 times. Open your Bible and check when needed.
4. Emphasize a different word each time through the verse.
(Look at mediation method #1 in the booklet)
5. When you move on to the next verse, make sure to repeat the old verse so you don't lose it.

Further Resources



PDF Download



Video Explanation
by John Piper

All Things New

Revelation 21:1-7

- [1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- [2] And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- [3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
- [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- [5] And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- [6] And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- [7] The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Behold,
I am making
all things
new.

Revelation 21:5



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