

# **Summer 2023 Discipleship Material: Found**

## **Summer Theme**

Summer Scripture- Luke 15:24

Theme Abstract- Have you ever felt unwanted, alone, or lost? Jesus teaches us when we are lost, God is still seeking us out! Only when God finds us and we find God can we truly become a part of the body of Christ. Being found invites us to a life of peace, joy, hope, love, and acceptance. Join us this summer as we learn about God's unconditional search for us and what it means to truly be found.

## **Purpose of Discipleship Sessions**

**Morning Watch:** These morning devotion sessions for resident campers are led by our counselors in small groups with their campers. They are designed to open up the campers to discussion and prepare them for Morning Chapel. Morning Watch is 10-15 minutes in length and occurs from Monday Morning through Friday Morning.

**Morning Chapel:** These morning worship sessions for Resident Campers, Encounter campers, and Day Campers are led by our Worship Coordinator in conjunction with the PIR. The Worship Coordinator will start off with prayer, a discussion question, or song. The Worship Coordinator will then introduce the PIR to speak for 5-8 minutes on the topic for that Morning Chapel session. Morning Chapel occurs Monday-Friday.

**Day Camp Chapel:** This afternoon chapel is specifically for our Day Campers. This worship is led by the Children's Ministry Coordinator in conjunction with the PIR. The Children's Ministry Coordinator may open with prayer, a story, a joke, a song, or a combination of those. The PIR then speaks on the topic for that Day Camp Chapel session for 10-12 minutes. Discussion and group involvement is encouraged during this time. Day Camp Chapel occurs Monday-Friday afternoon.

**Evening Worship:** This worship time is for Resident Campers. Worship music will be directed by our Worship Coordinator. You can expect 2-3 songs to open followed by prayer. At that time, the PIR will come up to speak for 15-20 minutes. Worship will then conclude with 2-3 songs. Evening Worship occurs Monday-Thursday evening.

**Night Watch:** These night devotion sessions for resident campers are led by our counselors in small groups with their campers. They are designed to help our campers debrief what they learned throughout the day and prepare them for a restful night. Night Watch is 10-15 minutes in length and occurs Sunday-Thursday night.

## Day-by-Day Breakdown

Sections in bold and highlighted are for the PIR to speak. Sections in italics are for the counselor to speak.

- Sunday -

### **Sunday Campfire Theme Introduction:**

Campfire Leaders will introduce PIR. PIR may say a few words of their choosing about their hopes for the week.

*Sunday Night Cabin Devotion (Night Watch):*

Message Theme- Your opportunity to share your testimony: a time you were lost and found by God.

- Monday -

*Monday Morning Cabin Devotion (Morning Watch):*

Scripture Focus-Luke 19:1-10.

Message Concept- Jesus came to Earth to seek and save what was lost. He came so that you can be found. Even though the people of his time thought Zacchaeus was unworthy of Jesus' attention, Jesus met with him. Jesus believed he deserved to be found. We all deserve to be found by the love of God.

**Monday All Camp Chapel:** 8:45-9:00am

Message Concept-Your opportunity to share your testimony: a time you were lost and found by God.

**Monday Day Camp Chapel:** 4:30-4:50pm

Message Theme- It is never too late to be found.

Scripture Focus- Matthew 20:1-16

Message Concept- A shorter version of Evening Worship message.

**Monday Evening Worship:** 7:00-8:00pm

Message Theme- It is never too late to be found.

Scripture Focus- Matthew 20:1-16

Message Concept- God does not put a time limit on when we must be found. While we will all be lost at some point in our lives, God rejoices that when we are found, regardless of how long it takes, we will receive the reward of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is never too late to be found.

*Monday Night Cabin Devotion (Night Watch):*

Scripture Focus- James 5:19-20

Message Concept- Read the following story with your campers. Discuss the roles of the man, the pastor, the neighbor, and God.

I recently met a man who came back to the Church after many years of being away. He had a long series of problems and challenges in life. As a young adult he had gotten involved in drugs, then battled with alcohol. At times he had nowhere to live, his family had enough of the stealing and disruptive behavior. At times he had nowhere to work. At times he had wandered aimlessly. Speaking of faith he told me that it was a neighbor of his who invited him to come back to church. He said “she was well aware of my problems, addictions and behavior yet she wanted to help. She told me that God loved me and that He was the best one from whom to seek help. She said that coming to Church and praying with so many others could be a source of strength and support in my struggles. She did not label me. She did not condemn me. She did not exclude me. Rather, she offered me love.”

- Tuesday -

*Tuesday Morning Cabin Devotion (Morning Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Psalm 143:8

Message Concept- At some point we are all lost; we are lost without God. Many times when we are lost it is because we have stopped following or paying attention to where God is leading us. The good news is God’s love means He is always willing to lead us again so long as we seek Him.

**Tuesday All Camp Chapel:** 8:45-9:00am

Message Theme- You are valuable and worth looking for in the eyes of God.

Scripture: Luke 15:8-10

Message Concept- As we have been talking about, we are all lost without God. However, God is still looking for us even when we are lost. Better still, God always knows where we are so as soon as we turn to Him, He is there waiting for us. There is not one of God’s people less valuable than another in His eyes.

**Tuesday Day Camp Chapel:** 4:30-4:50pm

Message Theme- It takes courage to seek God when you are lost.

Scripture Focus- Mark 5:25-34

Message Concept- A shorter version of Evening Worship message.

**Tuesday Evening Worship:** 7:00-8:00pm

Message Theme- It takes courage to seek God when you are lost.

Scripture Focus- Mark 5:25-34

Message Concept- This morning we talked about God looking for us. It is us, though, that must turn to God. We must make that choice, and it takes courage. The bleeding woman in Mark's story would have been considered unclean and she knew she could get in a lot of trouble for seeking out- and touching- Jesus. Still, her faith lead her forward. Luke 15:1-2 reminds us that this was not an isolated incident for Jesus. Jesus always welcomed the lost.

*Tuesday Night Cabin Devotion (Night Watch):*

Scripture Focus- 2 Peter 3:9

Message Concept- God is waiting for us to turn to Him. When we turn to Him, He will not hesitate to welcome us. We, though, must be the ones to make the choice. He wants us to seek redemption, to seek change, to seek Him. It is only in seeking Him that he can find the lost.

- Wednesday -

*Wednesday Morning Cabin Devotion (Morning Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Psalm 119:176

Message Concept- God is described to us as the Good Shepherd. Without Him, we are lost sheep. We, though, know how to seek out God. We know what He has asked of us and what we must do to turn back to Him so we may be found in Him.

**Wednesday All Camp Chapel:** 8:45-9:00am

Message Theme- God would leave those who have never been lost to come find you.

Scripture Focus- Luke 15:4-7

Message Concept- God is the Good Shepherd. He not only, will leave the folk to find you, but also will rejoice when He finds you. God is not upset with us and does not scold us for having been lost. Instead, He celebrates that one of his folk who was once lost has been found again.

**Wednesday Day Camp Chapel:** 4:30-4:50pm

Message Theme- You are never lost when you are with God.

Scripture Focus- Luke 2:41-52

Message Concept- A shorter version of the Evening Worship message.

**Wednesday Evening Worship:** 7:00-8:00pm

Message Theme- You are never lost when you are with God.

Scripture Focus- Luke 2:41-52

Message Concept- In one of the only stories written down about Jesus' youth, we are told of a time Mary and Joseph lost track of 12 year old Jesus. However when they find Jesus, they are reminded that Jesus was never lost in the first place. We are reminded in this story that if we are with God, following His lead, then we, too, can never be lost.

*Wednesday Night Cabin Devotion (Night Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Psalm 119:105

Message Concept- God is our Father, our leader. We are safe and remain “found” when we are with Him. We must use his direction, His word, to lead us so that we do not go astray and find ourselves lost.

- Thursday -

*Thursday Morning Cabin Devotion (Morning Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Proverbs 3:5-6

Message Concept- Read the following story and discuss the role of trust when we cannot help ourselves.

America was rocked by an act of terror on 9/11 that forever changed life in the U.S. Heroes came in all shapes and sizes that day and in the months to follow. One dog was in the North Tower and lead 31 people to safety- a Yellow Lab named Roselle. She was a guide dog who diligently came to work with her dad every day. Michael Hingson, Roselle’s dad, was a sales manager for a Fortune 500 company called Quantum the day the terror attacks shook America. Hingson and Roselle first met just two years prior in 1999. Roselle had been patiently laying under his desk when the unthinkable happened. Hingson and his colleagues didn’t know what had happened at the time, but they quickly realized the situation was dire.

*“I heard a tremendous boom, and the building started to shudder violently, before slowly tipping, leaning over 20 feet... I had always paid attention to fire drills and I knew to avoid the elevators, take the stairs and not to panic. While everything was happening, the explosion, the burning debris, the people in the conference room screaming, Roselle sat next to me as calm as ever. She didn’t sense any danger in the smoke and flames, everything happening around us. Roselle and I were a team and I trusted her,” Hingson explained. People started making their way down the stairs when they began to be overcome by fumes. The smell, which he reported was similar to kerosene, became so strong that their eyes began to burn. “The thought hit me that I could be a guide. So I called out to everyone not to worry, that Roselle and I would lead the way. Some people laughed, but the mood was definitely lightened.” They reached the lobby of the building after an hour traversing crowded stairwells, sweltering temperatures, and navigating past the gravely wounded. They were quickly met by a police officer yelling for them to evacuate because the building was collapsing. Hingson picked up his beloved Roselle and literally ran for his life. “I heard the sound of glass breaking, of metal twisting, and terrified screams. I will never forget the sound as long as I live.” He recalls that it took just ten seconds for the iconic skyscraper to be reduced to rubble.*

**Thursday All Camp Chapel:** 8:45-9:00am

Message Theme- God sent Jesus to earth for the purpose of finding and saving the lost.

Scripture Focus- Luke 19:10

Message Concept- Jesus was sent to earth to find and save the lost. Of all the many reasons we think Jesus came to earth, we are told he came to find and save the lost. He did not come to punish the lost, but to turn them back on the path toward God.

**Thursday Day Camp Chapel:** 4:30-4:50pm

Message Theme- God rejoices when the lost are found.

Scripture Focus- Luke 15:11-32

Message Concept- A shorter version of Evening Worship message.

**Thursday Evening Worship:** 7:00-8:00pm

Message Theme- God rejoices when the lost are found.

Scripture Focus- Luke 15:11-32

Message Concept- Our theme builds to this moment in the week. This message focuses on God's reaction to finding the lost. The idea that there is nothing we could do that God would not take us back from, no reason he would stop looking for us. Furthermore, that God will rejoice and celebrate when we are found.

*Thursday Night Cabin Devotion (Night Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Matthew 7:7-8

Message Theme- Read the following story and discuss the feeling of being found by God. How do you think God feels when He finds us?

Tim Halfin was at his Bible study in Texas on Friday night, when he said that God told him to go look for Christopher Ramirez, the little boy who had gone missing three days earlier after following a neighbor's dog into the thick woods near his home in rural Grimes County. Halfin went looking for the child around 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, when divine intervention led him to the whimpering boy just 10 yards into the thicket near his home.

"I said, 'Christopher is that you?'" Halfin explained. "Then he speaks again and I'm like, 'Whoa, praise God.' I don't know what to make of it. All I know is he was found safe," Halfin said. "When I picked him up, he was still talking. He wasn't shaking, he wasn't nervous. The things I would expect. Maybe he just sensed, 'I've been found. That's why everybody was praying. That's why God laid it on my heart to go look, to reunite that boy with his mom,'" Halfin said.

- Friday -

*Friday Morning Cabin Devotion (Morning Watch):*

Scripture Focus- Your choice

Message Concept- This is a chance for you to give some of your parting thoughts to your campers. A time for you to share with them a verse which stands out to you, reminds you to seek God even when times are tough. Ask them what they will do if they are lost again.

**Friday All Camp Chapel:** 8:45-9am

Message Theme- There may be many lost around us, but God will bring the found to His Table.

Scripture Focus- Matthew 13:24-30

Message Concept- We are surrounded by people who have not yet found God. They are lost. We, the found, when the time is right, will be the ones welcomed to the Kingdom of God. As we learned earlier in the week, we must do our part to try to lead the lost back to God. In the end, though, whoever has chosen to turn to God, to be found, will be the one's welcomed Home.

**Friday Resident Camp Closing Ceremony:** 3:00-3:30pm

Friday afternoon brings the Closing Ceremony for our Resident Campers. Campers are joined by their families to celebrate the week. Campers put on skits, counselors sing songs, leadership announce the winners of the Champion Paddle, and the PIR is invited on stage to briefly speak about their focus for the week. Please expect to speak for 2-4 minutes about what you taught the campers during your time as the PIR and a special moment which stood out to you.

**Friday Day Camp Chapel:** 4:30-4:50pm

This chapel is an opportunity to share one of your favorite messages with our day campers. Many of our day campers remain with us from week to week and this is one of their favorite chapel sessions as it is such a surprise what the PIR may have to say. Please use this time to spread the Word of God of your choosing.