

the
BEAT

WHAT BEAT ARE YOU WALKING TO?

Now Go...

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the BEAT...

Someone once said that music is the language of the soul. That's a scary thought if its true. Just think about the music being piped into our souls every day. Musical Artist, Actors and Reality TV are playing the songs that our souls are dancing to!

There's no wonder that this generation of student's is full of lust, anger, depression, isolation, substance abuse and self love. The beat behind these songs scream fulfillment through things and people and self promotion. The beats behind these songs are actually shaping who you are and what you do.

This is maybe the scariest part, You are part of a generation that has been positioned for success like no other generation before and perhaps marching to the wrong beat...

There has never been a time to be more concerned about who or what you soul is dancing to. There has never been a greater reason to pause and consider who or what is actually shaping your soul and what you do.

The Beat is about recognizing that only God can take a generation positioned for success and truly make it successful.

The Beat is about dancing to the music and the words of the God that created you and wants desperately to talk to and through you.

The Beat is about filling your soul with faith, hope, life and love. As you read these pages remember that you have been chosen to dance to the beat of God and your generation has been positioned to change the world.

May your soul dance to God's beat!

What's a Devotional?!

A devotional is a time of personal interaction between you and God. It's very different from Life Groups or Element because it's a one-on-one thing: just you and Jesus. It can be as short as 5 minutes or as long as you want.

We've divided it up into different parts to guide you through it...

Read & Reflect:

In this part, you are going to open your Bible to the passage of the day and read it. After reading the passage, read the Reflect section and answer the questions...

Act:

What are you going to do about it? This part challenges you to apply the passage to your life today...

Go Deeper:

Hungry for more? Here you will find more verses you can read...if you want to keep going!

Pray:

Some things you can pray for at the end of your devo.

The Beat

Simply put, the main idea for the day.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

MONDAY

**day
ONE**

Read
Acts 1:6-11

Reflect

Have you ever watched a TV show or a movie with a courtroom scene? Do you remember lawyers asking witnesses what they saw?

In a courtroom, witnesses have just one job...to tell everyone what happened! In this passage, Jesus gives His disciples last minute instructions and then goes back to Heaven. Jesus was always very intentional with His words, so His last words HAD to be important for the disciples and for us too!

Why do you think Jesus called the disciples witnesses?

Think about it for a minute. What do you think witness should do?

To me, a witness should _____.

If you're a Christian, Jesus has called you to be a witness for Him. He wants you to tell people what He has done in your life. You have a story to tell and no one else is going to tell it for you. If the disciples had ignored Jesus command to go and tell people about Him, it's possible that you and I would have never heard what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Sometimes in church we use the word "witness." When Christians use that term, they're talking about telling people about Jesus. It's not always easy, but it's what those who believe in Jesus are called to do!

When was the last time you "witnessed" to someone?

How did it go?

Were you nervous? Why/Why not?

MONDAY

Act

Write down the names of three people that God has put in your life for you to witness to:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Remember, as a Christian, your job is to share the Good News of Jesus. Only God can change someone's heart!

Come up with a game plan to witness to the names you just wrote down. If you need a few ideas, talk to your Life Group teacher or a student pastor.

Pray

Ask God to give you the boldness you need to be HIS Witness! Pray now that He would give you the opportunities to talk with the names you listed above. Pray specifically for each name that God would soften their hearts and help them to understand how much HE loves them.

Go Deeper

Read 2 Timothy 2 to see what Paul (a great witness) had to say about witnessing...

Pay special attention to verse 2!

The Beat

You are called to be a witness for Jesus.

TUESDAY

**day
TWO**

Read
Acts 1:12-26

Reflect

When was the last time you had to make a HUGE decision? Here's a hint...it wasn't last night when you were deciding which dessert to eat!

There are certain times when everyone has to make a big decision that will play a role in shaping their lives. Students face decisions about friends, colleges, relationships, school work, and so much more all the time.

When one of these big decisions comes up, how do you know what the right thing to do is? How do you decide?

In this chapter, the disciples have a HUGE decision to make...they've got to find another disciple! They could have easily picked someone they all liked, someone with money, someone with connections, someone that would have made their lives easier, someone that would have made them happy, but that's not how they looked at it.

Look back at the verses, what did they do before they decided?

They realized that they needed Jesus to make the right decision. In verses 24 & 25 they prayed asking for guidance. These verses show that prayer is a necessary part of decision making.

What big decisions do you need to make right now?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which ones have you prayed about?

Act

Pick two really important decisions that are out there for you to make and write them down in the box.



Commit 5 minutes two times a day this week to come back and pray about these decisions. Here's the tough part...don't pray for what you want, pray for what God wants!

He knows what's best for you, so pray and trust Him.

Fold the corner of the page down so you remember to come back to this page and pray over your decisions for the next week.

Pray

Ask God to constantly remind you to come to Him when you have a decision to make. Ask for forgiveness for trying to make decisions on your own. Spend some time praying over decisions that you need to make.

Go Deeper

The more wisdom you have, the easier Godly decisions are to make.

Read **Proverbs 1** and get some wisdom!

The Beat

Go to God when you have a decision to make.

WEDNESDAY

**day
THREE**

Read
Acts 2:1-13

Reflect

What is the coolest thing you have ever seen? Maybe you've stood on the top of a volcano, maybe you've seen a killer whale eat a huge fish, maybe you've seen One Direction live...what's the coolest thing you've ever seen?

The Bible is full of God doing incredible things that give Him glory! This story in the book of Acts is one of the most famous accounts of the early church.

In your own words, write down what happened:

Re-read what you wrote. Have you ever seen anything like this?? The power of the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to share the Gospel in such a way that everyone who was there was able to hear it and understand it in their own language! This wasn't a magic trick or something the disciples dreamed up, this was the Holy Spirit working in the lives of Christians who were willing to be used for the Glory of Jesus.

At the end of this incredible day, the Bible says that 3,000 people believed in Jesus and became Christians! (Acts 2:41)

If you are a Christian, the Bible says that you have the power of the Holy Spirit in your life as well. (Acts 1, Romans 5:5)

How and when have you seen the Holy Spirit work in your life?

Act

It's pretty easy for people to read the Bible and think that God used to do big things. God **STILL** does big things every day through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Make a list of three things that you would love to see God do in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Maybe you wrote that you want to see a friend come to know Jesus, maybe you want someone to be healed or to find a job.

God is active and always at work around us. A lot of times people don't recognize it because they aren't looking for it. Today, as you pray, come back to this page and write down where you see the Holy Spirit at work.

Pray

Ask God to help you see the Holy Spirit at work around you today. Ask Him to forgive you for the times where you don't expect Him to come through. Spend time praying for God to work in big ways on the things that you wrote down above.

Go Deeper

Go to biblegateway.com and do a search for "Holy Spirit".

Read through all the incredible things the Holy Spirit has done!

The Beat

You have the power of the Holy Spirit living in you.

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

**day
FOUR**

Read
Acts 2:42-47

Reflect

If someone decided to turn your life into a reality TV show and followed you everywhere, what would they see? No doubt that your life would be a great TV show!

As the cameras followed you, it would be pretty easy to find out what's important to you. The cameras might reveal that school, sports, friends, family, ice cream, music, and many other things are important to you.

There wasn't a camera following around the early church in this passage, but it's written down for us. What do you think was important to them? List them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

(Apostle's teaching, Breaking Bread, Fellowship, Prayer, Seeing People saved!)

This is such a cool picture of what the church should look like! The priorities of the church are laid out, people are being saved, they are meeting each other's needs and taking care of each other...it's a very cool picture.

At camp every year, CFBC gives out an "I'm 3rd Award" to one person on each team. It goes to the person who puts God first, others second, and themselves last. That's exactly what this passage is modeling. The people described here devoted themselves to the teaching of God's Word, they sold their own stuff to meet other people's needs, and they worried about themselves when everyone else was taken care of.

Act

Take a few minutes and list your top 5 priorities. Don't list them based on what you think they are, list them based on how much time you spend doing each one.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Ask one of your good friends to look at what you wrote down and see if they agree with what you think your priorities are. Ask your parents what they think. Now that you've listed them out based on time, list them again based on what you want your top 5 priorities to be...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pray

Ask God to open your eyes and to help you clearly see your current priorities. If they're in line with God's Word, ask Him to help you keep them there! If you're realizing that your priorities need to shift, ask God to help you make sure your priorities are in line with His!

Go Deeper

Read **Philippians 2** to see how far Jesus went to make sure his priorities were based on what God wanted, rather than his own wants and needs!

The Beat

Your priorities are defined by the way you spend your time.

FRIDAY

**day
FIVE**

Read
Acts 3:1-11

Reflect

Have you ever been on crutches or in a wheel chair? Know someone who has? Some people think it's fun for a day or two, but if you have to spend much time unable to walk, it's tough!

In this story, Peter and John healed a guy that had never been able to walk in his entire life – over 40 years! (Acts 4:22)

When you take the time to read slowly through a story in the Bible you pick up some interesting points...

Write down what they did in verse 4: _____

In verse 4 Peter and John actually stopped to look at the man begging outside the temple. How many times have you rolled up your window or looked away from someone who was begging on the side of the road? Peter and John took the time to look at him! Slow down and notice those in need.

Write down what they gave him in verse 6: _____

In verse 6 Peter said he didn't have the money to take care of the man begging, but he was able to give the man a touch of Jesus's love! You won't always have the money to give people everything they need, but you can always share Jesus with them.

Write down what the man did in verse 8: _____

In verse 8, after the man received a touch from Jesus he was overcome with joy and praised God.

When we receive a touch from the Lord our response should be thanksgiving and praise!

FRIDAY

Act

This may be a tough passage to read. Wherever you live, there's no doubt that you see people in need every day. On the side of the road you see people begging, and in your school or at your work you see people that need friends who care about them.

Write down a few specific needs or places where you see people in need each week:

Now write down a few specific ways that you can help meet those needs.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pray

Ask God to help you notice people in need. Pray that He would give you a heart that notices and cares about those who need help. If you're not sure what you can do, spend time praying asking God to show you how you can help.

Go Deeper

Every Saturday morning, a group of CFBC students called "Champions for Hope" go out and help those in need. Ask a student pastor about getting involved with it.

The Beat

God has specifically gifted you to help those in need.

SATURDAY

**day
SIX**

Read
Acts 4:1-22

Reflect

Have you ever heard the saying “you are who your friends are”? Everyone has that one friend who they start to imitate after spending time together...their words, phrases, hand motions. Sometimes it's hilarious, sometimes it's a little annoying, but everyone does it!

Who is it in your life that you sometimes start acting like?

RE-READ VERSE 13...

It's so cool that the people who were mad at Peter and John were able to recognize that they had spent time with Jesus. Peter and John were acting like Jesus. They were bold, filled with the Holy Spirit, sharing the Gospel, and they wouldn't back down.

LOOK BACK AT VERSE 20...

Write down what they said...

After their time with Jesus, they had no choice but to talk about it.

What about you?

You have that one friend that people know you've been hanging out with by how you act. Do they know that you've been spending time with Jesus by how you act?

A person's actions always point to something...make sure that your actions point to Jesus.

SATURDAY

Act

Write down at least 5 things that you think a person who has spent time with Jesus will do:

How many of these are currently a part of your everyday life?

Here's the cool thing...everything you just wrote down could be used to describe your life too! Everyone has the opportunity to spend time with Jesus every single day. Guess what? As you spend more and more time with Jesus through your time in The Beat, in prayer, and at Church, people will begin looking at you and be able to "recognize that you have been with Jesus" just like in verse 13.

Pray

Tell God you want to live a life where people can tell that you spend time with Him! Ask Him to help you live in such a way that people are pointed to Him in all that you do. Spend a few minutes in prayer telling God how and when you plan on spending time with Him each and every day.

Go Deeper

Peter and John spent a lot of time with Jesus. Look back at the Gospel of John and take a glance at some of these times they were with Him.

The Beat

Live in such a way that people can tell you've been with Jesus.

SUNDAY

day **SEVEN**

Read
Acts 4:32-37

Reflect

What do you own that's totally yours? Clothes, iphone/ipod, or maybe you're lucky enough to own a car. Is any of it yours or did your parents buy it for you? If you're like most people, when you have stuff that you've worked for, that you've bought with your own money, you want to make sure you keep it!

That's not how the Christians in this acted. Several of them had a ton of stuff...including houses and land. What did they do with everything they worked so hard to own?

They realized that everything they owned was from God and could be used for his Glory. Look back at verse 34.

How many needy people did they have around them?

Have you ever met anyone or seen a group of people that had an attitude like this? It's pretty tough to find people willing to give up what they have to make sure that someone else is taken care of.

Why do you think its so tough for people to give up their stuff for others?

When you think about everything that you have, are you willing to give it up to make sure that there's no one in need around you?

SUNDAY

Act

Read Psalm 24:1. In this Psalm we are reminded that everything we have belongs to the Lord...in fact, it says WE belong to the Lord!

When you think about everything you have really belonging to the Lord, you begin to realize that you're just borrowing it from Him. How does knowing that it's His change the way you will use what you have? Write your answer in the box below.

Make a list of 3 things that you have that you know you can use for His Glory and how you can use them...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Ask a friend to hold you accountable to doing these things.

Pray

Thank God for everything that He has blessed you with; for your family, friends, possessions, your car...everything that you may have. Ask him to show you how it can be used for Him! Commit everything you have to Him!

Go Deeper

Read **Acts 5:1-11** & look at what happened to two people that decided to hold something back from God.

The Beat

Everything you have is on loan from God.
Use it to glorify Him!

What stood **OUT?**

This is some space for you write down what God taught you this week and what Bible verses you want to memorize...

Sunday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

MONDAY

day **EIGHT**

Read
Acts 5:1-11

Reflect

Have you ever been caught in a lie? Maybe you cheated on a test and got busted or told your parents you were somewhere when you weren't. What were the results? Grounded, lose your phone for a few days, no computer or TV?

In these verses...

What lie did Ananias and Saphira commit?

Who did they lie to? What were the results?

You might have thought Ananias and Saphira lied to Peter and the apostles, but Peter explained how they did not lie to men but to God. Sometimes when we sin we forget our sin does not only hurt other people, but it offends God.

How do you feel when someone lies to you...?

How do you feel when someone cheats you...?

In the same way, God is affected by our sin.

Have you ever seen a water hose with a big kink in it? The hose gets jammed, no water can flow through, and the hose is useless. When we sin, it puts a kind of kink in our relationship with God.

So...what do we do?

MONDAY

Act

Where have you sinned? Where do you need to repent?

As soon as you realize you've sinned, talk to God about it.

Ask God to forgive you.

Tell him you are sorry and you don't plan to do it again. God will immediately forgive you and throw that sin as far as the East is from the West! (WHAT? How far is that? Seriously farrrrrr!)

Pray

Thank God for forgiving you when you sin. Talk to Him about any sins you deal with regularly. Ask for his forgiveness.

Go Deeper

Read Psalm 103:8-14.

List all the words that describe God.

Memorize Psalm 103:11-12.

The Beat

God forgives us when we sin.

TUESDAY

**day
NINE**

Read
Acts 5:17-21

Reflect

Remember Ananias and Saphira from yesterday? They were members of the **fastest** growing church in their community. In one day 3000 people got saved! Yeah, you heard it...3000! After that day, the Bible says **multitudes** of men and women were joining the group! I'm not exactly sure how many constitute a multitude but I guarantee it was a **whole bunch!**

There was one problem! Read Acts 5:17. What was the problem?

It appears jealousy reared its ugly head and somebody got mad! Who?

READ ACTS 5:18...

What were the results of this jealousy?

What do you think the apostles were doing in prison? Crying, complaining, praying?

What would you do if you were thrown in prison for telling others about Jesus?

READ ACTS 5:19-21...

Describe or draw a pic of what happened during the night while the apostles were in prison.

- What did the angel command the apostles to do?
- Does that seem little odd to you? Why or why not?
- Isn't he asking them to do the very thing they were thrown in prison for?
- Did the apostles obey?

Act

The apostles were so excited about all God was doing they could not stop telling other people...even if it meant imprisonment or death.

What about you?

Are you so excited about what God is doing in your life that you want to tell someone? Think of a time in your life when you saw God do something. How about when God provided for you or answered a prayer? Write about it below...

Today, tell someone about what you wrote. Get excited and tell others how great your God is!

Pray

Thank God for 5 things He has done in your life. Thank Him for the cool thing He did that you wrote. Ask Him to lead you to someone today that you can tell about Him.

Go Deeper

Read the rest of the story is Acts 5:22-42.

What happens to the apostles?

The Beat

You were created to tell others how Great God is! Get busy...!

WEDNESDAY

day
TEN

Read
Acts 6:8-15

Reflect

Let's play a quick game. Write the first person that comes to mind...

Strongest person you know _____

Super wise person _____

Person who acts like Christ all the time _____

What if you combined all of those people into one? Wowza! ;)

Read Acts 6:8-15. Underline in your Bible where Stephen is described with each one of the characteristics listed above.

How did the people respond to Stephen?

Circle the words that depict how they treated him...

...Loved him ...Argued with him ...Stirred up people against him

...Did the Dougie for him ...Got people to lie about what he said

...Wrote love songs about him

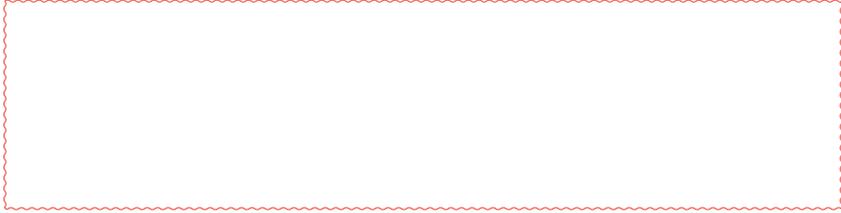
Why did the people hate Stephen
if he had so many great qualities?

Sometimes in life, people don't accept or appreciate the love we have for Jesus. When they hear you speak with wisdom or act in a way that pleases God, they make fun. The cool part about Stephen is his actions spoke for his beliefs. Because he was full of the Spirit, wisdom, and God's power, others saw the miraculous things he was doing.

Even though they didn't like it, they knew
something was different about Stephen...

Act

What about you? How do people describe you? Would someone put your name in the blanks above? Would you be described like Stephen...? (*Face of an angel for sure, huh?*)



List 3 Christ-like characteristics that you want God to develop in you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Chose 1 and begin acting that way today.

Pray

Talk to God about the 3 characteristics you listed above. Tell Him you want to be a person that is known for Him by your actions. Confess any actions that might not be pleasing to Him and give Him free reign to transform you into His image.

Go Deeper

Read Acts 7.

How did Stephen respond to the “haters”? What were the results?

The Beat

My actions tell others what I believe.

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

day **ELEVEN**

Read
Acts 8:1-3
Acts 9:1-19

Reflect

What would you do if a crazy man came to our church and started grabbing people and locking them up in prison?

Imagine your mom and dad, your Life Group leader, Skipper and Miori, and the person you sat next to in church last week are all in prison right now. Seriously, put your book down and imagine it ...

The man keeps going from house to house dragging people who go to your church out of their homes and putting them in jail. What would you do? Hide? Run? Fight him? Visit your friends and family in prison?

READ ACTS 8:1-3...

Who was going crazy against the church? _____

READ ACTS 9:1-19...

What did God want from Saul? _____

How did Saul respond? _____

What did God want from Ananias? _____

How did Ananias respond? _____

God had a plan to save hundreds of people, grow the church, and leave the Bible for us. That plan included a cruel guy named Saul & an ordinary Christian called Ananias. God knew from the beginning of time these 2 men would play a HUGE role in our salvation and the spread of Christianity.

Do you think they knew how important they were in God's plan?

Do you?

Act

Who are you most like in this story...?

Saul...

Are you fighting God?

Do you refuse to give your life to Him? Are you mean to other Christians? Why? What if you decided to stop wrestling with God & give your life to Him? Saul did! God had awesome plans for Saul and YOU too! Why don't you give your life to Jesus today?

Ananias...

Are you following God?

What if He needs you to talk to one specific person about Him? What if God is planning to use that person to save hundreds of people? Sure, you will have to get out of your comfort zone. But you are the Ananias God needs now. Whatcha gonna do?

Pray

Talk to God about who you are most like... Ananias or Saul. If you are Saul, tell God you want to give your life to Him. If you are Ananias, talk to God about what He needs you to do for Him.

Go Deeper

Did you know Saul (who became Paul) wrote half the New Testament?

Find out which books of the Bible he wrote...

The Beat

God has a plan for your life. Be smart and follow Him!

FRIDAY

**day
TWELVE**

Read
Acts 9:19-31

Reflect

Have you ever noticed there are always groups of people or cliques (friend groups)? Think about your school...there's probably a smart clique, an athletic clique, a drama clique, a skater clique, _____, _____, or _____ (*fill them in!*).

Do you know anyone who just doesn't seem to have a "group?" Maybe you are that person. Do you float from clique to clique? You have friends in every group & just don't seem to fit in one specific place .

What if every group you tried to fit in either wanted to kill you or was afraid of you?

Seriously, you walked up and heard them talking about how to stick your head in the toilet and drown you. Or you hacked into their fb and find out they are all scared to death of you. What would you do?

READ ACTS 9:19-31...

Who is the "cliqueless" person? _____

List the 3 groups that reject him.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who is the one person that took in the "cliqueless" person...?

How did Barnabas include Saul in his group?

FRIDAY

Act

Can you think of a “cliqueless” person?

Someone who needs to be included, feel accepted and understood.

Write their initials here:

Will you be their Barnabas?

God wants to use you in their life! It’s amazing how much of an impact you can have on someone else, just by reaching out to them with small gestures of love.

Talk to them, introduce them to your group, explain a little bit of their story, and be a FRIEND! Bring them to church and get them plugged in!

Pray

Ask God to show you the one person you need to include. Explain to God how you feel about being a Barnabas to others. Ask Him to give a you heart that wants to help others, just like Barnabas.

Go Deeper

What does Barnabas mean? Read Ats 4:36 for the answer.

Read these verses on encouragement:

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Ephesians 4:29

The Beat

God can use you to encourage and include others in His Kingdom.

SATURDAY

day
THIRTEEN

Read
Acts 10:9-33

Reflect

Do you believe God wants to use you to accomplish things for Him? Are you willing to do **whatever** God asks you to do?

What if God asked you to go to the 5th Ward with a random group of people and tell them everything you know about Him? Would you? What would you say?

What if God asked you to go to the richest group of adults in Houston and tell them everything you know about Him? Would you? What would you say?

READ ACTS 10:9-16...

How many times did he see the vision & hear the command? What was the command?

READ ACTS 10:17-30...

Who showed up at Peter's house? What happened to Peter while the visitors were knocking on the door?

What did Peter's dream mean...?

READ ACTS 10: 30-33...

How would you have felt if you were Peter?

In awe that God had given you the dream & now you knew why. In shock that you were standing in front of all these people. Afraid because you weren't quite sure what to say.

Amazed that God orchestrated all these events just so a group of people could come to know Him?

SATURDAY

Act

God will do whatever it takes to show you Himself, bring you closer to Him, change you, and love you. He died on a cross to prove His love, He left His word to help you grow, and He gave you His Spirit to guide and comfort you.

How else has God proven to you He is real and He cares about you? What is God doing now to draw you to Him? Are you listening? Will you let Him?

God also wants to use you to show Himself to others. Just like Peter and Barnabas, God is preparing you to be used. Each time you read His word, go to church, or pray, He is preparing you.

Will you do what He asks?

Pray

Thank God for His plan for your life. Tell Him you will listen and go when He tells you to talk to someone about Him. Ask for the courage and strength.

Go Deeper

Read Acts 10:1-8 to learn more about why Cornelius went to Peter

Read Acts 10:34-48 to find out what happened after Peter spoke.

The Beat

God has a plan to reach lost people. Be prepared and ready to be apart of it!

SUNDAY

**day
FOURTEEN**

Read
Acts 10:9-23

Reflect

Isn't it crazy how God makes us all different? We have different likes and dislikes, skills and talents. Think about different groups of people at your school or that you might see at the mall...skaters, athletes, drama, etc. What if God asked you to go to one of these groups and tell them about Him? Would you? What would you think?

List 3 groups you'd love to talk to & 3 groups you'd be afraid of..

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |

God told Peter to go and talk to a specific group. Read Acts 11:4-18 to find out who.

Number what happened to Peter in the right order.

- ___ Peter saw something like a great sheet come down from Heaven
- ___ The Spirit fell on the people in the house
- ___ A voice told Peter to kill and eat the animals
- ___ Peter was praying
- ___ God granted the Gentiles repentance and eternal life
- ___ The Spirit told Peter to go with the three men
- ___ Peter went to a man's house who wanted Peter to tell him how to be saved
- ___ Peter refused

God told Peter to go and tell the Gentiles how to be saved. The who? Yes, the **Gentiles**.. people who are not Jewish. This was pushing Peter way out of his comfort zone, but what was Peter's response in verse 17?

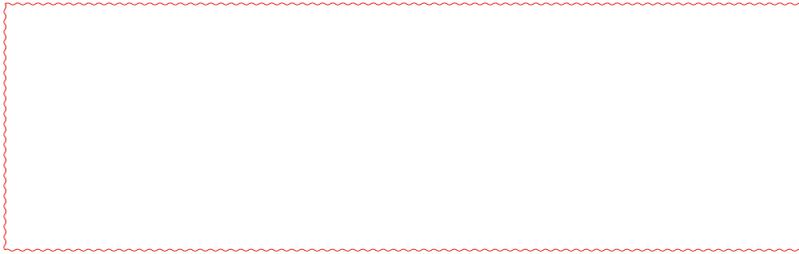
Peter knew he could not stand in God's way!

SUNDAY

Act

What about you? Who is God sending you to tell about Him? Is it a neighbor? A new friend? A stranger?

Who has God placed in your life to tell about Him?



Everywhere you go this week, look for someone to tell about Jesus.

Notice all the different types of people around you and ask God to show you exactly who He wants you to talk to about Him.

Pray

Ask God to give you opportunities to talk to people about Him and eyes to see exactly who needs to hear the good news. Ask God for the words to say and the strength to overcome any fear.

Go Deeper

Check out
1 Timothy 2:1-7.

What does Paul tell us to pray for? What does God desire for all people?

The Beat

God desires all people to be saved and know the truth!

What stood **OUT?**

This is some space for you write down what God taught you this week and what Bible verses you want to memorize...

Sunday Element

NOTES

Date:
Speaker:
Scripture:

Notes:

MONDAY

**day
FIFTEEN**

Read
Acts 11:19-26

Reflect

As Christians we are called to evangelize.

But the task is to remain with certainty in that path. Not to shrink, but to continue in spite of the obstacles, and to see the purpose that He has in store for us.

As this story reveals, Stephen was martyred, or killed for his faith (see Acts 7). This was a pretty important moment in the early Church. Because it was the first persecuted death because He was a Christian, all of the other Christians fled the scene!

They scattered all over the area, just as Jesus said they would right before he ascended.

Reread Acts 1:8.

Where does Jesus say they would be his witnesses...?

“ In _____, _____,
and to _____ .”

That's exactly what we see here!

They spread out all over the place into new towns and cities. They were probably a little scared going into new places without knowing much about them.

Have you ever moved somewhere new? You know the feeling.

But they knew that God was with them wherever they went. Even though they were all spread to different areas, they were still connected through Christ. God was with them. And God is always with you, wherever you go!

MONDAY

Act

Who's someone that you're intimidated to talk about God with?

Name a place that you're intimidated to go to,
because so many people don't know God there...

The early church probably felt the same way! But they also knew that God was with them at all times.

Take a second and pray for the person and the place you listed above. Pray that God will give you a compassionate heart for both of them.

Don't be afraid to share your faith! That's what you are called to do! People need to know God's love. Be strong and courageous and let the world know what Jesus has done for you.

Pray

Lord I know I was chosen by you. Help me to be strong and courageous, to fulfill my task and share the truth with everyone who is in my path so that they will get to know you and follow you as I do.

Go Deeper

Read and memorize
Joshua 1:9.

Every time you feel weak or down, repeat this verse! Close your eyes and remember.

The Beat

God is with you at all times!

TUESDAY

**day
SIXTEEN**

Read
Acts 12:1-5

Reflect

List the top 3 best movie bad guys of all time...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What makes them bad? Because they are evil? Ruthless? Selfish? Hungry for more and more power?

The kind of person (or monster) that you don't want to be in the same room with, because of how evil they really are?

Well, that was Herod. Herod was persecuting Christians. Herod hated the early church. He didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah and was against anyone that did. He sought them out and threw them in jail or arrested them.

In this passage, he takes two of the early church leaders and kills one (James) and throws the other one in prison (Peter). The early church was surely shaken by these events!

**Imagine if one of the student pastors was killed
another one was arrested?**

Think about the things that our God allows: Peter was in prison chained and guarded, but all that was necessary for the Lord be glorified. In our lives, many times we have to go through things that the Lord permits. But without doubt, He is glorified when we break those chains, come out victorious and stand tall, with our head high knowing that He is in control. While Peter was in prison, the church was earnestly prayed for him.

They let God carry them through the situation.

TUESDAY

Act

We all go through tough times and many times we don't understand why.

Write about a tough time you've been through, and you were confused and frustrated about why it was happening to you...



Just remember that God is always in control of your life when you allow Him to be. Stay focused. We - the church - are always praying for you.

He will never let you down.

Pray

Thank God for what He is already doing in your life right now. Pray that He will help you to stay focused and connected with the Holy Spirit so you can hear his voice for guidance and encouragement.

Go Deeper

Memorize
1 Thessalonians 5:17.

Acknowledge God's presence in your life at all times, praying continually.

The Beat

Let God carry you through life.

WEDNESDAY

day
SEVENTEEN

Read
Acts 12:6-9

Reflect

This sounds like a scene from Star Wars!

Imagine Luke being trapped in a holding cell. Then, all of a sudden, he uses **the force** and the chains slid right off of his arms and he was able to escape with loyal direction from good ole Chewy!

But Star Wars is just a movie. This one really happened!

**What if you saw an angel free Peter from prison?
How would you react?**

Well that's exactly what happened! How cool is that?

Peter kept his eyes on Christ and seeking out his will, even when he was in prison. Because of that, God sent an angel to come and free him because he had work for Peter to do!

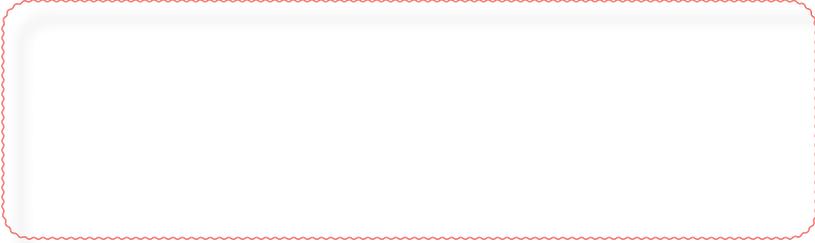
God puts so many people in our lives to help us in so many ways. Maybe you don't need to be released from a real prison but maybe a situation that is keeping you chained down. Perhaps a relationship or friendship has caused you to feel trapped or weighs heavy on your heart. Maybe you need to forgive someone and feel boxed in until you do. Or perhaps you just need to hear from God right now because you feel like you're in a rut.

Remember the angel helped Peter get out of prison; he helped Peter to be free again.

He will help you too, if you call on Him!

Act

Where could you use an angel from God right now? Why?



Keep your eyes open for that angel God is putting in your life. An angel sent by God will help you get out of trouble, and prevent you from getting into more trouble.

Don't be looking for a supernatural appearance...the angel in your life may be living in your own house!

Pray

Ask God to open your spiritual eyes, to reveal to you those people in your life that God is using to be your guardian angels.

Go Deeper

Read and memorize Psalm 119:18.

When you start seeing everything through God's eyes, you will never be the same!

The Beat

Seek to have spiritual eyes to see like Jesus.

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

day EIGHTEEN

Read
Acts 12:20-25

Reflect

It's always sad to see someone who has been influenced by the wrong things.

List a few people that have been influenced negatively in today's culture...

These people were created in God's image, just as you were.

Jesus died for these people too.

Yet they let the wrong things influence them grow away from God, rather than towards him.

That's how it was with King Herod. He was so influenced by worldly power that he became an enemy of God. He let the wrong things influence Him until he finally found his identity in the wrong things.

Society has a big influence in this generation through media and social networks. Sometimes you get caught up in the middle of all that media throws at you and you start believing things that are not real. You may even end up walking down the wrong path.

God created you to be you! You're a unique person. You are like nobody else and nobody else is like you. Don't try to be who you are not, just to fit in. God and the people that care about you love you just the way you are.

The best gift you can give to the world is to become the person God created you to be!

Act

List the top 5 things/ people that influence your life...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Are they influencing you to grow closer towards Christ or to grow away from him? Answer this for each one.

Stay focused on what God is putting in front of you. God gave you unique gifts; use them for His glory.

You are loved by God, not because of what you've done, but because of who you are. He longed to have a relationship with you even before you became His child! Find your identity in Him!

Pray

Ask God to help you identify those things in your life that need improvement. Stay connected with Him and you'll find the answers you've been looking for.

Go Deeper

Check out **John 8:32**.

The more you know about God, the more you'll discover about yourself.

The Beat

Your true identity is in Christ.

FRIDAY

day
NINETEEN

Read
Acts 13:1-3

Reflect

Do you believe that God has a purpose for your life?

Do you believe that God created you for a specific reason and a specific part of his will?

Do you believe that?

Because it's true!

Not all were called to the same work. The Bible tells us that there were several serving but only Barnabas and Saul were chosen for a specific work. We are also called and chosen for a particular mission.

Not all those around us will have the same purpose, nor the same way to go. But each one will have their own way. It is up to us to decide to follow.

Just like in **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE**, you can choose to accept or deny your mission. If you choose to do something else, God will find someone else to complete the mission. He doesn't need us, but he wants to use us.

He has written out a specific purpose for your life. Now it is up to you if you are going to obediently follow it or not. Following God's purpose in life means taking the hard road. Many times, we think following God is supposed to make life easier. Nope!

It definitely is more joyful though. Fulfilling the mission you were created to do is worth it...

DO YOU ACCEPT OR DENY YOUR MISSION FROM GOD?

ACCEPT

DENY

FRIDAY

Act

Have you ever felt God calling you to do something? It could be big or it could be small? God could have told you it loudly or in a very quiet whisper. He could've spoken very subtly or right in the middle of a worship service.

Write down a time that God called you to do something...

Our job is to obey and the Lord, in his time, will answer. God has a plan for you, and He will respond on time.

Keep seeking His presence and you'll know God's will for your life.

Pray

Lord, I sometimes despair when I don't get a quick answer from you. I ask you to put peace in my heart and forgive me. I would like to correct my steps and walk where you've already drawn the path for my life.

Go Deeper

Read and memorize
Matthew 6:33.

God's timing is perfect and everything will happen in his perfect time!

The Beat

God has a purpose for your life.

SATURDAY

**day
TWENTY**

Read
Acts 14:19-23

Reflect

Ever had a large mob of people gather 'round and throw rocks at you?

Most of us haven't!

But Paul has! In fact, the crowds pelted him so hard with stones that they thought he was dead. Like...**dead!**

Ever seen a movie/ TV show where they think someone's dead?

What happens at that moment? Everyone thinks it is over. There's kind of a 'moment of silence' in the story where everyone pauses and thinks about how different life will be without that person. Sad music plays. Characters exchange sad, reflective glances. And the audience wonders if this is really the end...

And then...

The character wakes back up! They aren't dead after all!

That's what happened with Paul! God kept him alive because he had more work for him to do. God had his back! Paul kept moving forward, knowing that he had a mission and nothing was going to get in his way.

While you are doing God's work you'll find many difficulties in life. Remember you have a mission. While you are trying to complete your mission you'll find many obstacles that the enemy is putting in front of you to make you fail.

God is in control of the situation; He'll do His part if you do yours!

SATURDAY

Act

What mission might God be calling you to? To share your faith with a friend? To invite a classmate to Element? To reach out to a kid at lunch?

Write it here...

What/ who is a potential stone thrower in the way...

Act on your faith! Just keep going forward. Don't let the circumstances put you out of your mission. God is still walking right next to you. Take those difficulties and negative circumstances and learn from them.

Just like Paul...get up and complete your mission!

Pray

God, please guide and show me the way you want me to go. Help me to stay strong through the difficult times. You are my strength and biggest supporter. I trust you with my life.

Go Deeper

Read and memorize **Psalm 23.**

Every time you feel weak, just open your mouth and let this Psalm come out!

The Beat

God has your back!

SUNDAY

day
TWENTY
ONE

Read
Acts 15:1-21

Reflect

Have you seen “The Karate Kid?”

Either one works, but I’m more referring to the newer one. The movie follows a young boy who wants to train to become karate master. He encounters an elderly chinese man (Jackie Chan) who teaches him all that he knows about the karate.

Jackie Chan passes on all of his skills and knowledge to the young boy. And by the end, the young boy has those same skills and knowledge and is able to use them himself.

God does the same thing with us!

He has passed down his skills and knowledge to us so that we can turn around and use it to impact others. The fancy word for that is the word **ambassadors**.

Hold up. Right that word down really quick: _____.

That means that God wants you to represent him with the things that he’s given you.

He’s given you **love**, so you can be an ambassador of **love**.

He’s give you **grace**, so you can be an ambassador of **grace**.

No one is perfect right? If your walk with God is strong, you should be the encourager to those who are struggling. God’s grace and salvation is available for every one that wants it.

Be an ambassador for him today!

SUNDAY

Act

When people see you, do they see an ambassador of grace?

When people see you, do they see an ambassador of love?

Grace is an opportunity to look past people's mistakes and and focus on how much God loves them.

Be an encourager of love and grace, not a finger-pointing person who sees every one else's mistakes. Make sure people sees Jesus in you. Everything you do or say should show God's love for us.

Who do you need to show more grace and love towards today?

Pray

Lord, please help me to be a positive influence with my friends and family. I don't want people to see me; I want them to see you through me!

Go Deeper

Read **John 3:17**.

Always remember why Jesus came to this Earth and why he'll be back!

The Beat

You are an ambassador of Gods grace and love.

What stood **OUT?**

This is some space for you write down what God taught you this week and what Bible verses you want to memorize...

Sunday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

MONDAY

day
TWENTY
TWO

Read
Acts 15:36-41

Reflect

Have you ever been in a sharp disagreement with someone that you both felt pretty passionate about? When was the last time you were in a major disagreement with someone? What was it about and who won?

There was a sharp disagreement in this bible passage. Who won? What was the result?

Disagreements are going to happen in life simply because people have opinions and see things differently at times. Disagreements don't always have to end with someone winning and someone losing. May times disagreements can end with a win/win situation for both people and for God's Kingdom.

List the last disagreement you had that ended poorly:

List the last time you disagreed with someone and it ended well:

More than likely the difference in the two is in one case there were a winner and a loser, and in the other case both of you won the disagreement.

MONDAY

Act

What was the last disagreement you had with a family member?

How could you have handled your last disagreement with a family member so that it ended better?

List two things you could have done...

- 1.
- 2.

Write down the one thing you will do the next time a disagreement happens so it doesn't end in the other person losing..

Pray

Ask God to show you if there is a sharp disagreement between you and another believer that should be settled so that both of you can win. Pray that God will give you the courage and forgiveness to go to this other person and set things right.

Go Deeper

Check out these verses on what the Bible says about confrontation:

Matthew 18:15-20
Romans 14:1-12

The Beat

Believers should always try to settle disagreements with other believers.

TUESDAY

day
TWENTY
THREE

Read
Acts 16:1-3

Reflect

Our reputation can have a huge impact on what we are able to accomplish in life. Colleges, universities and potential employers will all want to know what others say about you. And what others say about you can open up doors you never dreamed imaginable.

The young Timothy found this to be true. He finds himself in a position where his reputation granted him access to accompany the greatest missionary of all time all over the known world. Imagine for a moment what it must have been like to be the partner to the apostle Paul!

This would have been like being asked to follow JJ Abrams or Steven Spielberg on a movie shoot! This would have never happened if he had not been spoken well of by others.

What do others say about you? Do they say you are funny?

...Smart?

...Athletic?

...Hard working?

...Generous?

...Do others say you are caring?

...Would they say you are committed Christian?

Let's try it this way. If you were to write down your reputation of yourself, what would you write:

Now would that reputation get you a job with the Apostle Paul...?

TUESDAY

Act

Take a few minutes & write down all of the positives about your reputation...

Now write down the negatives about your reputation....

Or if you are really bold ask a trusted friend or family member to share what they would say your reputation is?

Circle the things that are hurting your reputation and that are distorting image of Christ in you.

Pray

Pray that God will reveal parts of your reputation that might be hindering you or might be offensive to others and that God will help you overcome them. Pray that God will begin to strengthen your reputation so that you can have maximum impact as you join Him in his work.

Go Deeper

Check out these verses about developing a great reputation:

Proverbs 22:1
1 Corinthians 4:1

The Beat

A good reputation is important to joining God in his work.

WEDNESDAY

day
TWENTY
FOUR

Read
Acts 16:16-24

Reflect

Sometimes doing the right thing can be pretty costly.

Telling the truth for instance can sometimes get us in trouble.
Reaching out to certain people can sometimes cost us friends.

Paul and Silas are an example of how sometimes doing the right thing can get the wrong results. They found a little girl who was full of an evil spirit that caused her to do some pretty crazy thing including being able to tell the future.

How's that for a carnival sideshow!

Now while you may wish you had that talent, it was a pretty big problem for her so Paul and Silas prayed that she would be set free and she was! The problem is her masters weren't too happy about it!

How would you feel if someone you knew had been set free from something that had them in bondage?

We might be happy but the masters of this little girl got angry because they used her to make money.

Paul and Silas probably thought the owners of this little girl would be happy with them but ended up getting into serious trouble, including being thrown in prison, because of what they did.

Act

Being able to do the right thing, even when it might end poorly is a decision you have to make before you get in that situation...take a few minutes and write down what you would do in each situation you may face:

**When telling the truth may get me into trouble,
I will _____.**

**When hanging out with someone who may not
not be 'cool' may cause others to treat me differently,
I will _____.**

**When sharing my Christian faith may not get me the
popularity I want, I will _____.**

If it was difficult for you to do the right thing, why was it difficult?

Would you be willing to share your faith in a country where Christianity was illegal, even if it meant getting into serious trouble?

Pray

Pray that you will always do the right thing no matter what it cost you. Take few minutes and pray for missionaries around the world who have gotten into trouble for sharing their faith in foreign countries.

Go Deeper

Check out these bible verses on staying strong when it gets tough:

Matthew 5:10-12
Romans 5:3-5

The Beat

Doing the right thing is always worth the consequences.

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

day
TWENTY
FIVE

Read
Acts 17:22-28

Reflect

There is a big difference between being religious and being a follower of Christ. Religious people can often just go through motions, follow rules and do things to somehow make themselves feel better about life.

Religious people can also participate in rituals or activities just out of habit and without any heart.

Can you list any things you do that could be considered religious but don't help your build relationship?

Being a follower of Christ is about a relationship not being religious. While it can sometime come across as religious it is always about the relationship.

Paul and Silas were concerned about a god in Areopagus.

What was the name of the God?

This too often describes the God that religious people follow who don't have a relationship, but this is not the way God designed it. God wants relationship with us.

Act

List five things you do that indicate you have a relationship with your best friend. Start is this way:

People know I am best friends with _____ because we...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now take the name of your best friend out and replace it with Jesus. Fill out the list again. Was it easier or harder?

Write down what do you need to start doing to grow your relationship with Christ.

Pray

Pray that God will reveal Himself to you today in a greater way. Pray also that God will give you a greater love for his Word, which is how he reveals himself to us and how we know him. Finally, pray for three people at your school or at your work who need a relationship with Christ. Pray that they come to know Him.

Go Deeper

Check these verses out about knowing Christ in a personal way...

Philippians 4:3-11
John 14:6

The Beat

Following Jesus is not about a religion.
Its about a relationship.

FRIDAY

day
TWENTY
SIX

Read
Acts 18:1-10

Reflect

Paul didn't let the results of him sharing the message of Christ determine his willingness to share Christ. Sharing your faith is always telling about the work of Christ and that he is the son of God. It is not about convincing someone to believe. The results shouldn't determine our willingness.

Think of something you do where you don't get immediate results and write it down...

Does just because you don't see the results mean it's not working?

Sharing your faith can be this way. Just because you are not seeing the results doesn't mean it isn't working. God ask us simply to share the message and he will take care of the results.

When was the last time you shared your faith and didn't see any results?

Does the lack of results mean you didn't share your faith? Of course not. You were obedient and now God will do what only he can do. He will work in that person you shared your faith with. If they reject the message they are not rejecting you. They are rejecting God.

Act

List the names of three people who you think might be open to the message of Christ.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now list the names of three people who you think would not be open to the message of Christ.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down what you would tell God if you didn't share His message with the second group of people....

That's a pretty hard to do isn't it? Probably harder than actually sharing with those people. Take a chance today and share with them...

Pray

Ask God to give you an opportunity today to share with someone the message of Christ and heaven. Now ask God to give you the courage to share.

Go Deeper

Check these verses out sharing your faith with all people...

1 Cor. 3:5-9
Matthew 28:19-20

The Beat

We don't share our faith for the results.
We share our faith to be obedient.

SATURDAY

day
TWENTY
SEVEN

Read
Acts 19:23-41

Reflect

The message of Christ can be a very confrontational message. Paul was never afraid to share this message even if it meant confronting people or even causing a disturbance.

He confronted the people of Ephesus over their idol worship and superstitions that caused a great uproar. Why would they get so angry about this? (List two reasons)

- 1.
- 2.

Some of the people in Ephesus were getting rich making and selling these little idols of Artemis. Paul's preaching confronted their intentions and motives. There were also people who were believers in Artemis worship so Paul's preaching was accusing them of being wrong! His preaching confronted their pride and security.

How do you react when someone tells you that you have the wrong motives or have a pride issue?

We typically all respond the same way to confrontation. At first we tend to defend ourselves. Then we may get a little angry even. We may even reject what they are saying, even if it might be true.

Our response doesn't determine whether it is the truth. And sometimes the truth HURTS!

Act

Write down two ways someone might react when they are confronted with the message of Christ and told they have the wrong motives and are prideful.

- 1.
- 2.

Now take a minute and write down how you would respond to how that person reacts.

- 1.
- 2.

What are some of the things people have as idols today that the Gospel confronts?

Pray

Pray that God would give you the courage to confront others and the wisdom to know how to do it. Pray that God will give you the determination to stand up to the idols of our day.

Go Deeper

Confrontation is uncomfortable and tough. Check these verses out:

1 Cor. 1:18

Galatians 2:11-21

The Beat

Don't let confrontation stop you from sharing the message of Christ.

SUNDAY

day
TWENTY
EIGHT

Read
Acts 20:7-12

Reflect

What a bizarre story! This really makes you think twice about leaning back in your chair. Luke tells us this young boy leaned back too far and flipped out the window of a third floor and died!!! Now I realize why my mom always told me to put that chair on all four legs.

There has been debate over whether the boy was actually dead or if he just had his wind knocked out of him. I believe he was dead but either way there is something we can learn.

Have you every had the wind knocked out of you?



Write down three words that described how it felt...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now write down three words that describes someone who has died...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In both scenarios the description was probably not good. It may have been things like panic or lifeless or helpless.

We can actually find people who are spiritually how this boy was physically. We can find people who are spiritually dead and people who had had the spiritual breath knocked out of them.

SUNDAY

Act

Being spiritually dead means you have never accepted Christ as your Savior. Are you spiritually dead? Do you know of someone who is?

Write down the first name that comes to mind:

Circumstance and tragedy can knock the breath out of us. Things like the loss of a family member or broken family or fractured friendships can affect our spiritual health.

Describe the last time you felt like you had the spiritual breath knocked out of you.

The solution to both is the same; whether dead or just breathless.

Surrender to Christ is the only way to give life and breath to this life! Have you surrendered everything to him?

Pray

Pray for people today that are struggling with their spiritual health. Pray for those who have had the spiritual breath knocked out of them. Pray also for people who are spiritually dead that they may receive spiritual life.

Go Deeper

Surrender! Check out these verses...

Ephesians 2
James 4:6-8

The Beat

Eternal life and spiritual health come only through surrender to Christ.

What stood **OUT?**

This is some space for you write down what God taught you this week and what Bible verses you want to memorize...

Sunday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

MONDAY

day
TWENTY
NINE

Read
Acts 21:27-36

Reflect

Have you ever been somewhere that you knew you weren't wanted?

Maybe in a class or at a hangout that you weren't invited to, but came with someone else? Or perhaps there was one person in the group that didn't like you and get the whole group against you.

Why did they not want you there? Was it because of something you had said? Or something you did or didn't do? What you believed?

What was the setting/ reason?

Imagine being in a room surrounded by people that hate you and want to kill you. Imagine being around people that made it their goal in life to stop you from sharing your faith with others.

That's what Paul was dealing with here...

How would you feel if you were in his shoes?

Sometimes following God means that you aren't the most popular person in the room. In fact, a lot of times spreading God's Word and doing the right thing is not the popular thing to do. But did that stop Paul and the other disciples in Acts? No! They kept following God.

Do you let it stop you from doing what is right?

MONDAY

Act

Where is the hardest place for you to share your faith? Why?

Do you ever find it hard to be obedient to God because so many people around you aren't? Do you ever fear if you say something about God or church that it might offend someone or cause them to become upset or irritated at you?

What/ Who do you fear most, when it comes to sharing your faith?

Let today be a day that you are more focused on being boldly obedient for God than being popular.

Pray

Pray that God will give you boldness to obey him, regardless of the costs. Pray specifically for the people around you that reject the Word of God. Pray that they will have an open and receptive heart to God's loving grace.

Go Deeper

Read **Luke 17:33** outloud twice.

How does this verse tie in with Paul's attitude toward sharing his faith?

The Beat

Sometimes following God means doing unpopular things.

day **THIRTY**

TUESDAY

Read
Acts 22:22-29

Reflect

Have you ever been accused of doing something that you didn't actually do?

When was it? What happened?



How did you feel when you had to defend yourself against something that you knew wasn't true? It was probably discouraging and frustrating. You may have felt irritated that you were even in the situation at all...that you didn't even deserve to be blamed for it.

That's probably how Paul felt in this passage.

He was being accused of committing crimes, even though he hadn't committed any. He was called a criminal, even though he hadn't broken any laws.

Why? Because the people didn't like him and what he stood for. Even though Paul came to them to help them and save them, they rejected him and wanted to kill him and make him suffer...

...Sound familiar?

Isn't it interesting that the disciples ended up going through a lot of the same experiences that Jesus went through? They spoke boldly, performed miracles, and suffered on behalf of the Lord. If they suffered for their faith, doesn't that mean we will too?

Act

What things in your life do you love so much that you are willing to devote hours of time working hard and 'suffering' so that you can get better at it? Do you spend several hours a week practicing a sport or an instrument so that you can get better at it? Do you spend a lot of energy studying so that you can have great grades?

What do you dedicate time and energy towards every week?

On a scale from 1-10, how hard to you devote yourself to your relationship with Jesus?

If we are truly living for Christ then we will face times of ridicule and suffering. Many times we never endure spiritual ridicule like Jesus or Paul did because we don't fully devote ourselves to God. We give our full efforts towards other things, but not towards God. Commit today to fully devoting your efforts towards your relationship with Him.

Pray

Ask God to give you a renewed passion to follow him. Ask God to give you the strength to stay strong in his name, even during times of suffering.

Go Deeper

Want to see someone who stays strong through years of trial and testing?

Read Joseph's story in **Genesis 37-41**.

The Beat

Truly following God means enduring ridicule and suffering.

WEDNESDAY

day
THIRTY
ONE

Read
Acts 22:30-
Acts 23:11

Reflect

Do you ever adjust how you say something, based on who you are talking to?

Whose someone that you always adjust to when talking to them?

It is always good to modify your message a little bit depending on who you are talking to, especially when it comes to sharing your faith. If you were sharing the Gospel with a group of 1st graders, you would probably want to use different examples and references than you would if you were talking to a bunch of your peers.

That's exactly what Paul does here!

Paul realized that a big part of his audience (Pharisees) believed in the resurrection of the dead and connected with that thought. Because of that, Paul was very intentional to use language that connected with his audience. Let's go over that again...

**Paul was very intentional to use language
that connected with his audience**

Paul knew that the best way he could effectively speak into someone's life was to use words they connected with and terms they understood. He adjusted his message to his audience.

In the same way, God wants us to be as intentional as Paul was when we share our faith. We should always take into account our audience and how we can creatively reach them where they are.

Act

List a few people in your life that you would love to share your faith with...

What do these people connect with? Are they bandmates? Teammates? Braniacs? Do they love movies? Music? Books?

What kind of things could you talk about with each of these people that they would connect with and could help bridge towards a conversation about God?

Pray

Pray that the Lord will give you opportunities to share your faith today to the people you listed. Pray that God will help you adjust your language to specifically reach them right where they are with the Word of God.

Go Deeper

Read Jesus' parable of the net (**Matthew 13:47-50**). Why does Jesus use a fishing analogy? What were his disciples doing when he first recruited them?

The Beat

Share your faith in a way that specifically connects with the specific person.

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

day
THIRTY
TWO

Read
Acts 23:12-22

Reflect

Paul really had a way with people!

It's amazing to think that Paul was so passionate for God and telling people about him that 40 people made it their goal in life to stop him and kill him.

Have you ever made someone that mad before?!

What did Paul do to make people this mad? Why did these Jews commit to fasting until they killed him? What was it about Paul that drove them to this point?

It was Paul's passion for God!

Think of some of the most influential leaders of all time (both good influencers and bad influencers).

List a few of them:



These people had tremendous influence because they were passionate about something. Just like Paul. Paul was so passionate about God that it bothered the Jews. It bothered them to the point that they had to stop him.

His passion was that strong and that noticeable.

Could you say the same about your own passion for God?

Act

List some things you are passionate about:

Now of all of those, what are you most passionate and excited about right now? Be honest...

Our relationship with God should be our number one passion! God wants us to be as excited about sharing his Word as Paul was. Paul's passion was so evident that everyone around Paul knew that he was a Christian and sold out to God's Will.

Is your passion for God as obvious as his was? Pray for it today!

Pray

Ask God to give you a new passion for him today. Pray that your passion for him can be so obvious that everyone around you knows that you are a Christ follower!

Go Deeper

What if we had this type of passion for God....

Philippians 1:21-26

The Beat

Our passion for God should be evident to those around us!

day
THIRTY
THREE

FRIDAY

Read
Acts 23:23-35

Reflect

Did you see “The Avengers”?

There’s a scene where the bad guy is about to blast one of the civilians away and Captain America flies in and blocks it with his unstoppable shield. That’s kind of like what happens here. Paul is surrounded by his enemies that desperately want to kill him. Before they can though, God sends in Felix to shield him from danger.

WHY?

Because God had a plan for Paul. He wasn’t done with Paul yet, so he made sure to protect him.

Have you ever seen a sports team rest one of its players so that they could put the players in later when it really mattered?

Why do you think they do that?

As long as God has work for us to do, he will protect us. This doesn’t mean that we will never get hurt. We will. This doesn’t mean that we won’t experience pain and loss. We will. It doesn’t even mean that life will be that easy. It isn’t.

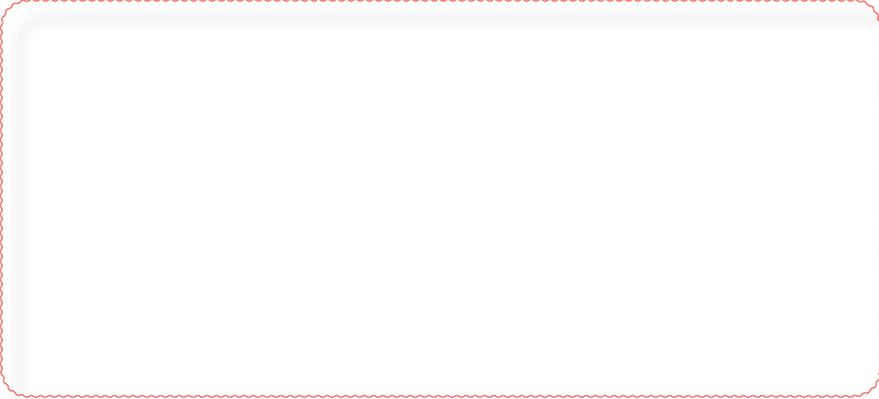
What does it mean? It means that you can trust that God will protect you and take care of you, as long as you are obedient to him. God blesses those who are obedient to his Word.

He will protect you as long as he’s got work for you to do!

FRIDAY

Act

**In what areas (physically/ emotionally/ spiritually)
do you need God's protection today?**



Have confidence that God will protect you as you move forward in his will. He will send you people like Felix to help you along your way!

Pray

Pray that God will provide protection for you in the areas you listed above. Ask God to give you restored confidence that he will provide for you.

Go Deeper

Memorize this verse and make it your life motto!

Psalm 27:1

The Beat

God sends protection to his followers.

day THIRTY FOUR

SATURDAY

Read
Acts 25:1-12

Reflect

Have you ever met someone that was so confident in themselves that it made you confident in them?

Who has confidence like that?

When you are around someone with that much confidence, you naturally begin to believe in them too. When you are around someone that doubts and questions themselves, you do the same to them.

In what areas of your life do you doubt yourself?

That kind of faith is the faith that Paul displays in this passage. Even though his life trial is on the line, he doesn't worry. He confidently trusts that the Lord will take care of him. He doesn't take time to complain and become frustrated at his circumstances, like we all tend to do sometimes!

It's his unwavering confidence that makes Paul stand out in this passage. He has such a strong faith in the Lord that he doesn't worry, even when his life is on the line.

Do you have that same, unshakeable faith in the Lord? Is your faith so strong that it encourages other people to have faith in the Lord?

SATURDAY

Act

What areas of your life do you worry about the most? Why?



Most times we worry because we lack faith in God to take care of us in a particular area of our life.

Do we ever see Jesus worry in the Gospels? Nope. Why? Because he had such strong faith in God to take care of him, regardless of the circumstances.

Have faith that God will take care of every area of your life!

Pray

Ask God to replace all your worries with confidence in his Word. Pray that the Lord will fill you a faith in him that is so strong that others around you are inspired to have a stronger faith in the Lord as well.

Go Deeper

Want a good memory verse on being free of worry? Check it:

Matthew 6:34

The Beat

Don't worry! Have faith that God will take care of you.

SUNDAY

day
THIRTY
FIVE

Read
Acts 25:13-27

Reflect

If you were brought before trial and your crime was “being a Christ follower,” would they have enough evidence in your life to call you guilty?

Do your life choices give evidence to others that you are following Christ?

What things in your life would help the jurors find you “guilty” of being a Christian?

What things in your life would help the jurors find you “not guilty” of being a Christian?

Paul was found innocent because he’d committed no crimes. However, there was all the evidence in his life that he was following Christ. Everyone around him knew that he was a Christian because of his life choices and his boldness in sharing his faith.

What about you? Do most of the people around you know that you are a Christian? The students in your class? On your team? In your band? In your clubs?

Would they charge you “guilty” of being a Christian?

SUNDAY

Act

There are all types of things you could do in your life to let others know what you believe, without being too 'in-their-face' about it.

Check 3-4 things that you want to commit to doing this week, so that you can be more bold in letting others know about your faith...

- ___ Ask how you can pray for a friend/ teacher/ stranger
- ___ Offer to pray for your table before lunch
- ___ Offer to pray before a team/ club/ band practice
- ___ Buy someone a coke and tell them it is a free gift to them, just like the free gift God gave to us through his Son
- ___ Start a weekly bible study before school or during lunch
- ___ Invite other students to Life Groups and Element
- ___ Tell your classmates how Jesus has changed your life

Your life should display the life of a Christ follower to all the people around you. It should display the evidence of a Christian!

Pray

Ask God to give you the boldness to be open of your faith to those around you. Pray that he will give you opportunities to follow through on the things that you checked above. Thank Him for his grace!

Go Deeper

Read the fruits of the spirit Paul describes in **Galatians 5:22-23**.

How many do you display in your life?

The Beat

Your life should display evidence of a Christ follower.

What stood **OUT?**

This is some space for you write down what God taught you this week and what Bible verses you want to memorize...

Sunday Element

NOTES

Date:
Speaker:
Scripture:

Notes:

day
THIRTY
SIX

MONDAY

Read
Acts 26:12-18

Reflect

Paul loves to share his story of when he met Christ!

If you remember, this passage is a recap of what happened in Acts 9:1-19.

Why do you think he's so excited to tell others his story?

Paul was excited to tell people his story because Jesus changed his life in an amazing way! Jesus was the greatest gift he ever received!

It's sort of like when you get an awesome Christmas or birthday gift. How do you react? You're excited and want to tell people about it! Whether it's texting/ calling friends, going on facebook/ twitter, or shouting it from the rooftops...you want people to know!

What's an awesome gift you've gotten that you wanted everyone to know about?

In the same way, we should be excited to tell others our story about when we met Jesus! That was the most important decision you ever made and way more exciting than a Christmas present!

You'd be amazed how powerful your story could be to someone else. Your story ("testimony") is a great tool for sharing your faith!

MONDAY

Act

When was the last time you shared your story to someone?

When you share your testimony to others, it should include a few parts:

Your life before Jesus:

When you met Jesus:

How your life has
changed since then:

Now that you've written it out, go and share it with others!

Pray

Thank God for your story! Ask him for opportunities for you to share your story with others. Pray that he can use your story to impact other peoples' lives!

Go Deeper

Your story matters! Take some time and write out your whole story. Use the **"Journaling"** page if you'd like!

The Beat

Share your story of how you met Jesus as often as you can!

day
THIRTY
SEVEN

TUESDAY

Read
Acts 27:1-12

Reflect

Paul was quite the world traveller! Jesus commanded the church to go to all of the “ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) to share the Gospel, and Paul did just that!

**Have you ever been out of the country?
If so, where?**

Paul went all over the place. In this passage, he is headed for Rome to be with some close friends of his. At is around this time, that he wrote the book of Romans (the next book in the Bible).

Why did he travel so much? Did he have severe ADHD or what?!

Paul travelled from city to city because God kept calling him to different places. Sometimes he'd spend a few months in a city. Sometimes he'd be there for years. But whenever God called him to a new place, he went.

Do you believe that God will call you to different places and things throughout your life?

Sometimes God calls us somewhere for decades. Sometimes its for months. God is always calling us somewhere. When he changes that calling to a new place, it's important that we are always open and ready to go, just like Paul.

TUESDAY

Act

Have you ever felt God calling you to go somewhere or do something? Maybe it was to be friends with a particular person or to join a club at school. Or maybe he called your family to move to a totally new place.

Write down something God called you to do...



If you keep listening to God's voice throughout your life, he will call you to all different places. Sometimes it's different places in the same city and other times it's to completely new parts of the world.

Wherever he calls you, be ready to go! Don't be like Jonah who tried to ignore God's voice! Do you really want to get eaten by a fish?!

Pray

Ask God right now what he is calling you to do, even today. Ask God for boldness to follow Him wherever he calls you to go. Thank Him that he allows you to be apart of his good work!

Go Deeper

Flip back to the Old Testament and skim through the story of **Jonah**. What happens to him when he ignores God's calling? When he listens?

The Beat

Throughout your life, God will call you to different places and different things.

WEDNESDAY

day
THIRTY
EIGHT

Read
Acts 27:13-38

Reflect

Ever seen the movie “Titanic?”

How frightening would it be to be on that boat? You’re in the middle of the sea and the ship is sinking! In the movie, some people remain calm under the circumstances. Others run around screaming. And even others go crazy and start jumping over the sides!

It’d be scary to be stranded on a boat in the middle of the sea. As the waves picked up the passengers started to panic. They completely stopped eating!

What do you do when you’re nervous/ stressed?



Even though the waves were rough and things were scary, Paul remained strong and composed. He knew that worrying was not going to help anything. He remained strong and guided the other passengers through the storm.

How do you react when life gets stormy? When things get tough, do you get nervous, stressed, or overwhelmed? Do you panic that everything is falling apart?

Or do you trust that God is in control and he will take you through it. That’s the harder route for sure. Which one are you?

Act

What are the storms in your life right now?

(You may have a few...)

How are you reacting to them?

Are you more like Paul or the passengers?

Commit today to trusting God through your storms. You will always have storms in your life. Repeat. You will ***always*** have storms in your life.

How will you react to them? Will you panic or trust God? Will you starve yourself or keep eating?

Pray

Ask God to give you the strength and endurance to get through the storms in your life today. Pray that God gives you faith in Him to take care of you through it all.

Go Deeper

Remember when Jesus calmed the storm? Read it again and be reminded that he is in control:

Mark 4:35-40

The Beat

Have faith that God will get you through your storms! Keep eating!

It's Journaling **TIME!**

Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts. What's going on in your life? Where do you need God right now?

Wednesday Element

NOTES

Date:

Speaker:

Scripture:

Notes:

THURSDAY

day
THIRTY
NINE

Read
Acts 27:39-44

Reflect

A lot of times, we expect life to be easier and smoother if we are doing the right thing. When life gets hard and complicated, we naturally see it as punishment for mistakes we made.

Describe a time when your life was really hard...

What was your natural instinct when you were in that time...?
(circle one)

“What did I do wrong to bring me to this point?”

“This is all apart of God’s plan for me to grow.”

Be honest!

So many times, we get shipwrecked and lose sight of what God is up to in our lives. We forget that God allows the shipwrecks to happen because those times are the times of our greatest growth.

The shipwreck in this story wasn’t a result of Paul’s disobedience to God. It was just apart of God’s plan for his life. Paul had the choice of having one of two natural instincts...he chose the second one?

Which one will you choose?

Act

What area/s of your life is headed towards a shipwreck?

Are you trusting God to help you through it? Are you continuing to seek out his name in the situation?

Many times, shipwrecks are the result of a mistake we make. If you steal a car and end up going to jail for it, that wasn't God's plan. That was yours!

But a lot of times, shipwrecks are just apart of life. They aren't the consequence of something we did wrong. They are just a stepping stone in the pattern of life. So approach your shipwrecks with faith that God will use it to help you grow closer to him!

Pray

Thank God for the shipwrecks in your life. Ask Him to give you the same perspective Paul had through his shipwreck - that you were in control of everything.

Go Deeper

There is a time for everything! Read about it...

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The Beat

God allows shipwrecks so we can grow closer to him.

FRIDAY

**day
FORTY!**

Read
Acts 28:17-31

Reflect

Paul's entire Christian life was surrounded by people trying to arrest and kill him.

When we look at what it mean for Paul to be a Christ follower, it meant a life of suffering.

What were all the ways that he suffered?

Why would someone keep following God after enduring all of those things? He was beaten, stoned, arrested, threatened, arrested again, mocked, doubted, and laughed at wherever he went.

Paul went to towns where he was rejected. Riots formed against him. People dedicated their lives towards stopping and killing Paul. He was shipwrecked. And then rejected again by the people he fought so hard to help save.

...SO WHY DID HE KEEP MOVING FORWARD?

Because he knew that following Christ was still worth it! The joy that comes from a relationship with Christ is so much greater than any suffering we will endure in his name.

If you follow Christ, there will be suffering. But it will be worth it!

Act

Make a list of all the different ways that you might suffer for Christ this year. This may include being made fun of, isolated, left out of certain friend circles or conversations, laughed at, etc.

List them here...

| | |
|---|---|
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |

Stay strong through your suffering! Know that the Lord is blessing you for all that you do in his name. Know that you are not alone and that the body of Christ is always here to support, encourage, and love you.

If you need specific help through a time of suffering, talk to a student pastor. We are here for you and love you dearly!

Pray

Thank God for the privilege of suffering for his name. Ask him for his favor as you commit to follow him every day of your life. Praise Him because he is so good!

Go Deeper

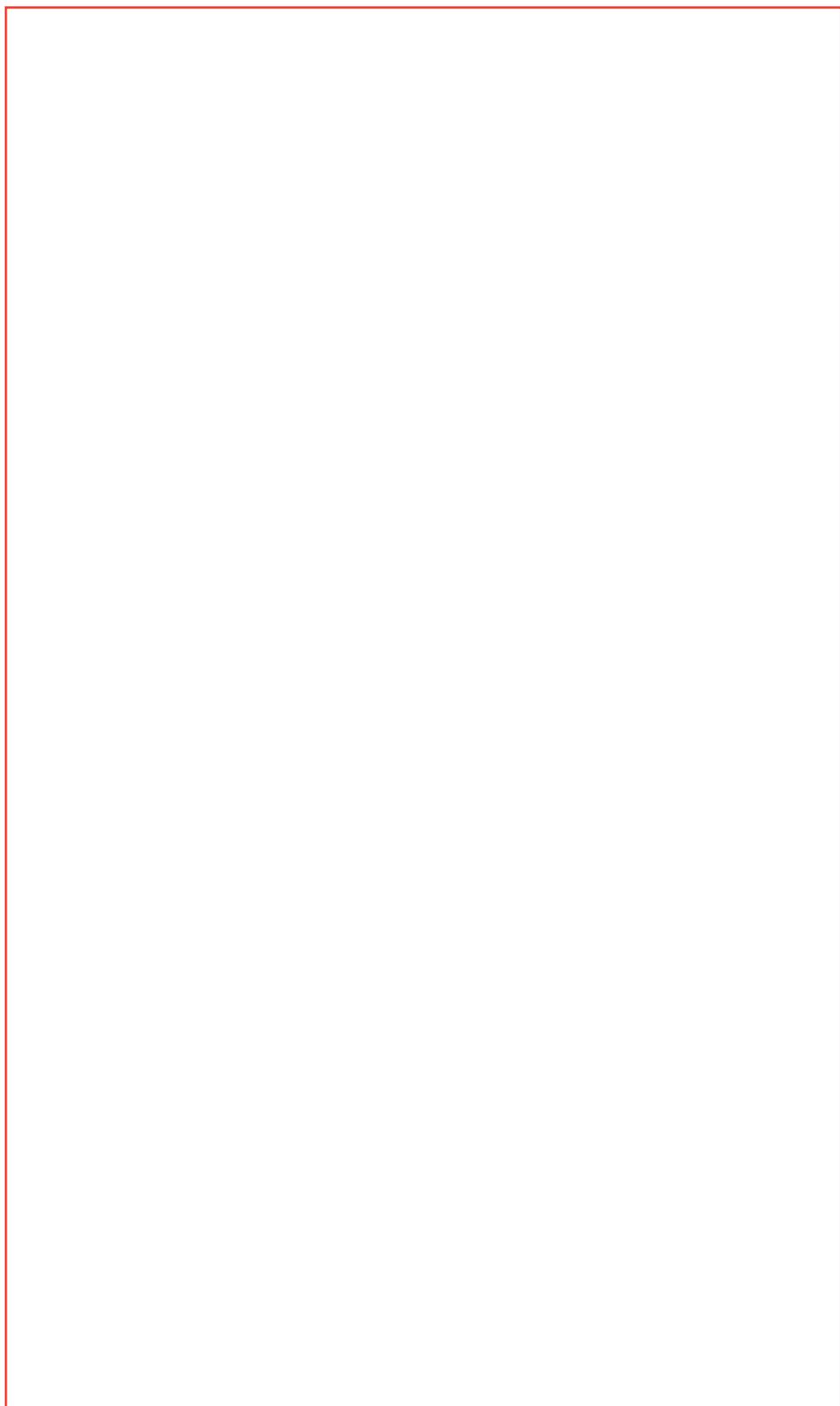
Here is what James (Jesus' brother) has to say about suffering for God. Memorize it!

James 1:2-4

The Beat

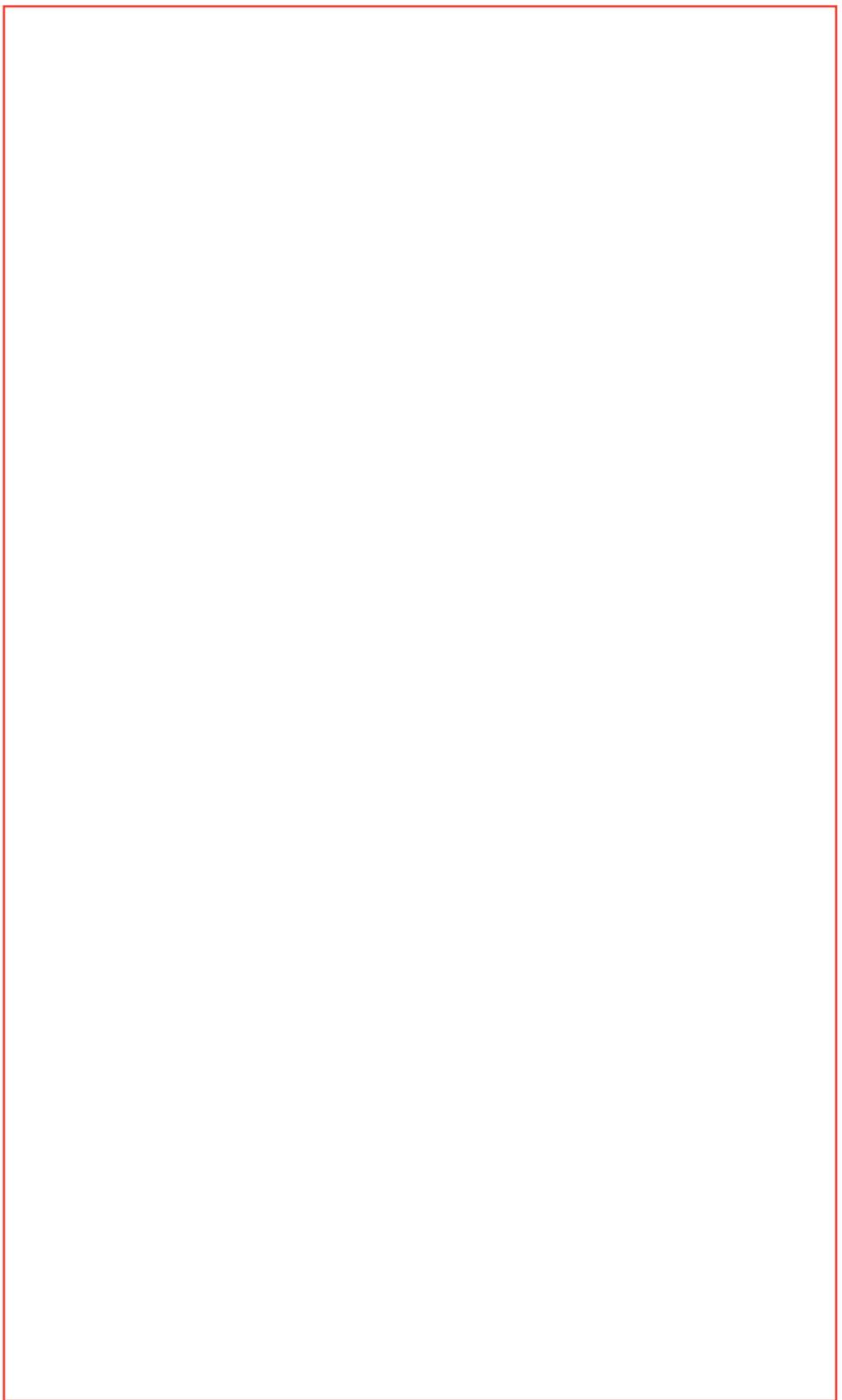
There is always suffering in following Christ. But it is always worth it!

Bible Memory **VERSES**

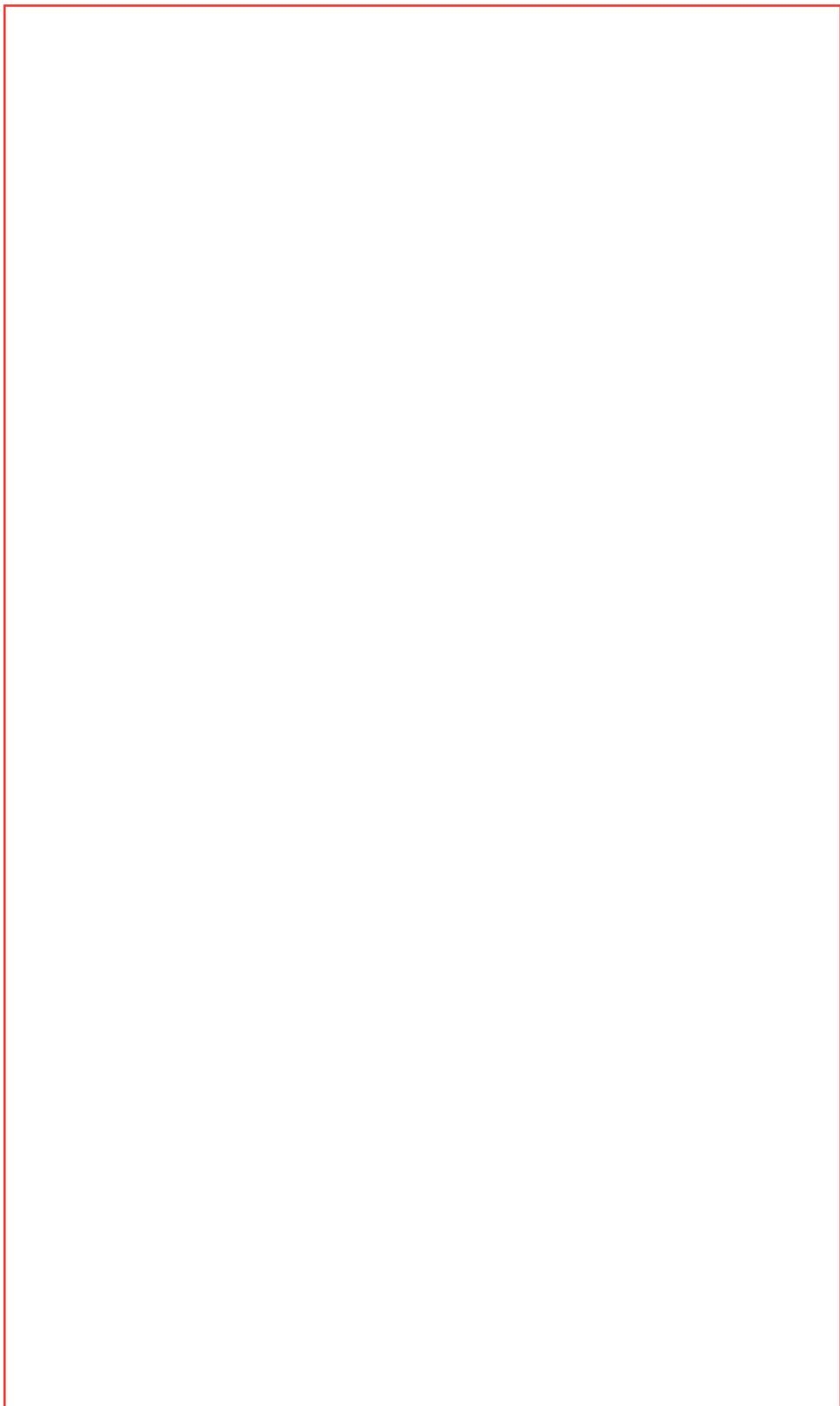


Additional

NOTES



Additional NOTES



Champion Forest STUDENTS

STUDENT STAFF

Student Pastor: Jeff Skipper (jskipper@cfbc.org)

High School Pastor: Steven Morris (smorris@cfbc.org)

Middle School Pastor: Stephen Sargent (ssargent@cfbc.org)

Bilingual Student Pastor: Julian Pizarro (jpizarro@cfbc.org)

Girls Minister: Stephanie Chase (schase@cfbc.org)

Ministry Assistant: Toni Peeler (tpeeler@cfbc.org)

Ministry Assistant: Nancy Cook (ncook@cfbc.org)

WEEKLY STUFF

LIFE GROUPS (*Sundays at 9:30 am and 11:00 am*)

Connect in this small-group setting as you dive into the Word of God with other students in your grade and discuss how to apply God's truths to your life.

ELEMENT (*Sundays at 11:00 am*)

All 6th-12th graders will gather in our main Element room in the Lodge for a time of powerful worship, dynamic teaching, and hilarious games and videos!

UPCOMING STUFF

ELEMENT UNLEASHED (*Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm*)

The Lowdown: Every Wednesday night in the summer! We are going to have football, soccer, basketball, volleyball and free food! Then, we'll gather up for some worship and teaching outside! Bring your friends...you don't want to miss it!

Contact: Stephanie Chase for more info

KING OF THE BEACH (*July 29-August 1*)

The Lowdown: Simply put...the best volleyball tournament in the beautiful state of Texas! All 6th-12th graders welcome! Cash prizes!

Cost: \$15 (includes wednesday night luau)

Contact: Nancy Cook for more info

championforest.org/students

twitter.com/cfbc_student

This would not have been possible without
the leading of the Holy Spirit.

May you go out into the world, always walking
to the Beat of God's Word.

