



A FREE DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FOR STUDENTS

20 Days After Camp

Camp was the trailhead, not the mountaintop. Twenty days of Scripture, story, and prayer to help a student keep walking with Jesus one day at a time.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

- One day at a time. Read the verse, read the story, then answer Reflect, Apply, and Pray.
- Going Deeper unpacks the original Greek or Hebrew words, the history behind the verse, and what it means for you.
- Parents and leaders: print this, hand it to your student, and do it alongside them.
- Missed a day? Pick up where you left off. Nobody is behind.

A free resource from the NW Youth team · Assemblies of God Northwest Ministry Network

The Journey Does Not End at Camp

“I am confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 • WEB

MAYA, ON THE BUS RIDE HOME

On the ride home from camp, Maya stared out the window, scared the feeling would fade by Monday. She had felt so close to God all week. Her leader leaned over and said, “Camp was not the mountaintop. It was the trailhead.” Maya wrote it on her hand so she would not forget: the God who met her at camp was not staying behind at camp.

REFLECT

What did God start in you at camp that you do not want to lose?

APPLY

Pick a time and a place to meet with Jesus for the next 20 days. Then text someone from your youth group that you are starting this journey, and ask them to check in on you.

PRAY

Jesus, You started something real in me. I trust You to finish it. Walk with me through these 20 days and into the school year. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Philippians 1:6 is not a nice quote — it is a promise about how God works.

began • Greek: **enarchomai**

The same word used for starting a sacred offering. Your salvation was not a casual start — God consecrated it, set it apart for Himself.

complete • Greek: **epiteleó**

To carry all the way to the finish line. God is not a God who starts projects and abandons them.

THE BACKDROP

Paul wrote this from a Roman prison, chained to a guard, to the church in Philippi — the first church ever planted in Europe. These were his partners who sent him money again and again. He is telling people who could have lost hope: the One holding you does not get tired.

WHAT IT MEANS

Salvation is God's work from start to finish. You did not save yourself, and you cannot un-save yourself by having a bad week. But notice the partnership — God completes the work as you keep saying yes to Him. This is the difference between religion (you climbing to God) and the gospel (God reaching to you and refusing to let go). The same Spirit who first drew you to Jesus is the One who keeps shaping you, day by day, until you look like Him.

Make the Time

“Early in the morning, while it was still dark, he rose up and went out, and departed into a deserted place, and prayed there.”

MARK 1:35 • WEB

ELI AND THE FIRST TEN MINUTES

Eli used to grab his phone before his feet even hit the floor. For one week he tried something different: ten minutes with Jesus before the group chat. He said it felt like the difference between walking into a test you studied for and one you did not.

REFLECT

What is the first thing you give your attention to in the morning? What would change if it were Jesus?

APPLY

Put your Bible where your phone usually charges. Give Jesus the first ten minutes tomorrow before anything else.

PRAY

Jesus, if You made time to be with the Father, I can make time to be with You. Help me show up. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

If the sinless Son of God needed time alone with the Father, what does that say about you?

early • Greek: *prōi*

The last watch of the night, around 3-6 a.m. Jesus gave God the part of the day no one else could claim.

deserted place • Greek: *erēmos*

A wilderness, a lonely place — the same kind of place where Jesus was tested and where He fed thousands. God meets people where there are no distractions.

THE BACKDROP

This is the morning after a wild night in Capernaum where Jesus healed the whole town (Mark 1:32-34). The crowds wanted more. Instead of riding the wave of fame, Jesus disappeared to pray. His power flowed out of His prayer life, not the other way around.

WHAT IT MEANS

Jesus lived in total dependence on the Father, and He is our model. The Christian life is not powered by your willpower but by a real relationship with a real God who speaks. Time in His presence is where you are filled and refilled. When you make space for God, you are not earning His love — you are positioning yourself to receive His power for the day ahead.

Light for the Path

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path."

PSALM 119:105 • WEB

JADA AND A BIG DECISION

Jada had a big decision about who to spend her time with this year. She told her small group she did not know what God wanted. Her leader asked, "When did you last open the Book where He talks?" That night she started reading a chapter a day, and the path got clearer, one step of light at a time.

REFLECT

Where do you need light right now? Are you actually opening the Book that gives it?

APPLY

Start reading one chapter of the Gospel of John each day. Underline one thing Jesus says that you need to hear.

PRAY

Jesus, be the light on my path. I do not want to walk this year guessing. Speak to me through Your Word. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Before flashlights and phones, a 'lamp to your feet' meant you could only see one step at a time.

lamp • Hebrew: *nêr*

A small clay oil lamp that lit just enough ground for the next footstep — not the whole road. God's Word guides you step by step, not all at once.

word • Hebrew: *dābār*

More than letters on a page — God's living speech that actually does what it says.

THE BACKDROP

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, built as an alphabet poem where every section celebrates God's Word. People walked dirt roads at night with tiny oil lamps that lit only the next step. That is exactly how much light the Bible promises.

WHAT IT MEANS

Scripture is God-breathed and completely trustworthy — your final authority for what is true and how to live. God usually does not hand you the whole map; He gives you enough light for the next step of obedience. That is on purpose: it keeps you walking close to Him. The Bible is not a history book you study from a distance; it is God's living voice that lights your actual path today.

Your School Is the Mission Field

“You are the light of the world. Even so, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:14, 16 • WEB

MARCUS COUNTS THE ROOM

When Marcus got back to school, he counted maybe four students he knew who actually followed Jesus. He used to think that was depressing. Now he wondered if it meant his hallway was exactly where his light was supposed to shine.

REFLECT

Who at your school might never walk into a church, but they will see your life every single day?

APPLY

Your campus is your mission field. Ask your youth pastor about Youth Alive, then take one step: pray for three friends by name, and start or join a See You at the Pole or a campus club this year.

PRAY

Jesus, make me brave at school. Let my life be a light that points straight to You. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus did not say 'become' the light of the world. He said you already are.

light • Greek: *phōs*

Jesus calls Himself the Light of the world (John 8:12) — and then calls you the same thing. His light shines through you.

world • Greek: *kosmos*

Not just planet Earth — the whole system of people who do not yet know God. Your campus is a piece of the kosmos.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus said this in the Sermon on the Mount to ordinary fishermen and farmers, not religious professionals. Houses used oil lamps set on stands so the light filled the room. A city on a hill at night could not be hidden for miles.

WHAT IT MEANS

Every believer — not just pastors — is sent to carry Jesus into the world. You are a witness by who you are, not only by what you say. This is the Spirit-empowered life: the same light that lives in you wants to spill out where you walk. Hiding your faith is not humility; it is putting a basket over a lamp God lit on purpose.

You Are Not Your Old Story

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 • WEB

TYLER AND AN OLD LABEL

Everyone at school still expected Tyler to be the kid he was in eighth grade. He almost believed them. But the verse said new, not improved. He decided to stop letting an old version of himself write his new year.

REFLECT

What old label are you still wearing that Jesus already took off you?

APPLY

Write down one lie you believe about your identity. Next to it, write what Jesus says instead, and read that out loud.

PRAY

Jesus, thank You that I am new in You. Help me live like the person You say I am. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

'New creation' is bigger than 'better person.' It is brand-new DNA.

new creation • Greek: *kainē ktisis*

Kainē means new in quality and kind, not just new in time — like the difference between a remodel and a totally new building.

behold • Greek: *idou*

A word that grabs your collar: 'Look! Pay attention!' Paul wants you to actually see how total the change is.

THE BACKDROP

Corinth was a party city full of people with messy pasts — and Paul says those same people became brand-new in Christ. The Greek world believed your past defined you forever. The gospel detonated that idea.

WHAT IT MEANS

Being born again is not turning over a new leaf; it is a new birth, a real change at the core of who you are. God does not just forgive your record — He gives you a new heart and His Spirit living inside you. Your old identity does not get the final word anymore. When God looks at you in Christ, He does not see the old version He is tolerating; He sees a new creation He is proud of.

How Will They Hear?

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without someone preaching? And how will they preach unless they are sent?”

ROMANS 10:14, 15 • WEB

BROOKE MEETS A SENT FAMILY

Brooke always thought missionaries were strangers in old photos. Then a family from a church one town over stood up front, about to move overseas to people who had never heard of Jesus. Real people, from right here. She realized somebody had to help send them, and she was somebody.

REFLECT

There are people who have never once heard the name of Jesus. What part could you play in changing that?

APPLY

Go to pnwstl.com and look at the missionaries our own Washington and North Idaho churches have sent. Speed the Light helps get them the equipment to go. Give what you can this week, even a little, and start the conversation with your youth group.

PRAY

Jesus, the whole world is on Your heart. Put it on mine. Show me how to help send people who carry Your name. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

There are people alive today who have never once heard the name of Jesus. This verse is about them.

preaching • Greek: *kēryssō*

To herald — like a royal messenger announcing the king's news in the town square. The message is too good to keep quiet.

sent • Greek: *apostellō*

To commission with authority for a mission. It is the root of the word 'apostle.' Missionaries do not just go — they are sent.

THE BACKDROP

Paul is building a chain reaction in Romans 10: people believe because they hear, they hear because someone preaches, and someone preaches because they were sent. Break any link and the message stops. In the ancient world, news only traveled as fast as a willing messenger.

WHAT IT MEANS

God's heart is for every person on earth to hear about Jesus, and He has chosen to use people to carry the message. Missions is not an optional hobby for super-Christians; it is the natural heartbeat of a Spirit-filled church. You may be a goer, or you may be a sender — but no one who knows Jesus is a bystander. The world's salvation is wrapped up in someone being willing to be sent.

Fruit You Cannot Fake

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self control.”

GALATIANS 5:22, 23 • WEB

SOFIA STOPS GRITTING HER TEETH

Sofia tried so hard to be patient with her little brother that she snapped by eight in the morning. She thought being a Christian meant trying harder. Her leader said fruit grows, it is not forced. She started asking the Spirit each morning instead of gritting her teeth, and slowly something actually changed.

REFLECT

Which fruit do you most want the Spirit to grow in you right now?

APPLY

Pick one fruit from the list. Each morning this week, ask the Holy Spirit to grow it in you instead of trying to force it on your own.

PRAY

Holy Spirit, I cannot manufacture this. Grow Your fruit in me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Notice it says 'fruit,' not 'fruits.' That is not a typo — it changes everything.

fruit • Greek: *karpos* (singular)

One fruit with nine flavors. You do not pick love and skip self-control — they grow together as one life produced by the Spirit.

Spirit • Greek: *pneuma*

Breath, wind — the very life of God. This fruit is grown by Him in you, not manufactured by you for Him.

THE BACKDROP

Paul is writing to churches in Galatia who were sliding back into rule-keeping to prove themselves to God. He contrasts the 'works of the flesh' (things you produce by effort) with the 'fruit of the Spirit' (what God grows). Fruit grows slowly, quietly, from the inside out — it is never forced.

WHAT IT MEANS

The Spirit-filled life is not about trying harder; it is about staying connected to the Source. A branch does not strain to produce grapes — it simply stays attached to the vine. As you walk with the Holy Spirit, His character grows in you naturally. This is real Christianity: not a list of behaviors you fake, but the life of God maturing inside you until people taste Jesus in how you treat them.

God Still Calls Students

“Yahweh came, and stood, and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak; for your servant hears.””

1 SAMUEL 3:10 • WEB

CALEB PRAYS A SCARY PRAYER

Caleb figured a call to ministry was for adults with seminary degrees. Then he read that God called Samuel when he was basically a middle schooler. That night Caleb prayed a scary prayer for the first time: “Speak, I am listening.”

REFLECT

If God were calling you to give your whole life to ministry, would you even be listening?

APPLY

Some of you are called to full time ministry, and you are not too young. Check out calledcast.com and our Called initiative. This month, get to a Called Cast at a youth ministry near you, or gather a few Called students and watch the playback together.

PRAY

Jesus, I want to hear You. If You are calling me, I am listening. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

God called a kid by name in the dark — and that kid changed a nation.

Samuel • Hebrew: *Shemû’ēl*

His name means 'heard by God' or 'name of God.' Even his name was a reminder that God hears and speaks.

hears • Hebrew: *shāma’*

To hear and obey — they are the same word. For Samuel, listening to God always meant doing what God said.

THE BACKDROP

Samuel was likely around twelve, serving in the tabernacle at Shiloh under old Eli. The Bible says 'the word of the Lord was rare in those days' — God's voice had gone quiet across the whole nation. Then He broke the silence by calling a boy four times in one night.

WHAT IT MEANS

God still speaks, and He still calls students — age has never disqualified anyone from hearing His voice. Hearing God is normal Christianity, not a special privilege for the elite. But notice: hearing and obeying are the same thing to God. The right response to His voice is not 'Let me think about it,' but 'Speak, Your servant is listening.' Some of you are being called right now, and you are not too young to answer.

Do Not Let the Year Squeeze You

“Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

ROMANS 12:2 • WEB

HANNAH FEELS THE SQUEEZE

Two weeks into school, Hannah noticed she was already talking, laughing at, and wanting things she would have said no to in July. The world was not yelling at her to change. It was just pressing, quietly, all day. She decided to fight the squeeze by renewing her mind every morning.

REFLECT

Where is the world quietly pressing you to become someone you are not?

APPLY

Name one area where you feel the squeeze. Find one verse that speaks to it and read it every day this week.

PRAY

Jesus, do not let me be squeezed into this world’s shape. Renew my mind and make me like You. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The world is not screaming at you to change. It is quietly pressing — every single day.

conformed • Greek: *syschēmatizō*

To be squeezed into a mold from the outside, like jello poured into a shape. The world wants to shape you without you noticing.

transformed • Greek: *metamorphoō*

The same word used when Jesus was transfigured and shone like the sun. Real change comes from the inside out — and it is the word we get 'metamorphosis' from.

THE BACKDROP

Paul wrote Romans to believers living in the capital of the Roman Empire, surrounded by a culture that pressured everyone to fit in. He says the battlefield is the 'mind' (Greek: *nous*) — your way of thinking. Renewing it is a daily, ongoing process, not a one-time event.

WHAT IT MEANS

Following Jesus means being changed, not just forgiven — this is sanctification, the lifelong process of becoming holy. You cannot out-willpower the world's constant pressure; you transform by letting God renew how you think, mainly through His Word and His Spirit. Caterpillars do not become butterflies by trying harder — change happens at the level of who they are. Fill your mind with truth daily, and you will not have to fight so hard to resist the squeeze.

You Do Not Have to Do School Alone

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 • WEB

THE LUNCH TABLE FILLS UP

Remember Marcus and his four Christians from Day 4? They found each other and started meeting at one lunch table on Fridays. By October the table was full. For them, Jerusalem looked a lot like a cafeteria.

REFLECT

What if your school had a place where students could meet Jesus? What if you helped start it?

APPLY

Your Jerusalem is your campus. Start or join a club or Bible study this year. If one already exists, led by another church or a Jesus centered group, partner with them, bring friends, and ask your youth ministry for a leader to help.

PRAY

Jesus, give me the power and the people to be a witness right where I go to school. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus told His followers to wait before they witnessed. Power had to come first.

power • Greek: **dynamis**

Explosive, miracle-working power — the root of 'dynamite.' This is not a personality trait; it is God's strength poured into you.

witnesses • Greek: **martyrs**

The word we get 'martyr' from. A witness gives their whole life as evidence that Jesus is real.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus said this right before He ascended to heaven, and days later the promise exploded at Pentecost — the Holy Spirit filled ordinary believers and they boldly spoke of Jesus. He told them not to go witness in their own strength but to wait for the Spirit's power to come upon them first.

WHAT IT MEANS

There is more available to you than salvation — there is the baptism in the Holy Spirit, a deeper filling that empowers you to live boldly and witness with power. This is the same promise given at Pentecost, and it is still for believers today. You were never meant to do school, or share your faith, or fight temptation in your own strength. Ask the Father to fill you with His Spirit, and watch Him give you a boldness that is clearly not your own.

Do Not Drift

“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another.”

HEBREWS 10:24, 25 • WEB

DREW SKIPS ONE WEDNESDAY

After camp, Drew skipped one Wednesday, then two. By the third week it felt awkward to go back. He noticed his faith got quiet when he got alone. The day he finally walked back in, three people said they had missed him. He had not drifted because he stopped believing. He drifted because he stopped showing up.

REFLECT

Be honest: are you drifting from the people who keep your faith awake?

APPLY

Get to youth group this week. Sit by someone new, and invite one friend who has nowhere to belong.

PRAY

Jesus, keep me from drifting. Thank You for Your people. Help me show up for them and let them show up for me. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Drifting is not a decision. It is what happens when you stop deciding.

provoke • Greek: **paroxysmos**

A sharp stirring up — we get 'paroxysm' from it. Here it is flipped positive: jolt each other toward love and good works.

assembling together • Greek: **episynagōgē**

A gathering, gathered again — the same root as 'synagogue.' God's people are designed to be assembled, not scattered.

THE BACKDROP

Hebrews was written to Jewish believers under pressure to quit and walk away from the faith. The writer warns against the slow fade of skipping the gathering 'as the custom of some is.' And he adds urgency: do this all the more 'as you see the Day approaching' — the return of Christ.

WHAT IT MEANS

You were never designed to follow Jesus alone. The church is the body of Christ, and a body part cut off from the body dies. Drifting rarely starts with unbelief; it starts with isolation — one skipped gathering at a time. And there is a clock running: Jesus is coming back, and that reality should make us cling tighter to each other, not drift apart. Your people are not optional; they are how God keeps your faith awake.

Give Like It Is Going Somewhere

“Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 • WEB

ANA AND SEVEN DOLLARS

Ana only had seven dollars. She almost kept it, because what could seven dollars do for a missionary halfway around the world? She gave it anyway. Months later her group got a photo of a vehicle that helped a missionary reach a village, and she realized her seven dollars had feet now.

REFLECT

What is really keeping you from giving, the amount you have, or the grip you have on it?

APPLY

At pnwstl.com you can see the missionaries from our own churches and what Speed the Light provides for them. Give cheerfully this week, any amount, and ask your youth ministry about going in together on a goal.

PRAY

Jesus, everything I have is Yours. Make me a cheerful giver. Let what I give carry Your good news somewhere I may never go. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

God does not just notice what you give. He notices the look on your face when you give it.

cheerful • Greek: **hilaros**

The word we get 'hilarious' from. God loves a giver who is downright joyful about it — not a giver who is wincing.

compulsion • Greek: **anankē**

Pressure, necessity, a forced obligation. God specifically does not want guilt-giving.

THE BACKDROP

Paul was collecting an offering from Greek churches to help struggling believers far away. He makes it clear: this is not a tax, and it is not about the amount. It is about the heart behind it. Each person decides 'in his heart' beforehand.

WHAT IT MEANS

Generosity is a window into your heart — what you do with your money shows what truly owns you. God is not broke and does not need your dollars; He wants your joy and your trust. Giving cheerfully breaks money's grip on you and proves you believe God is your provider. When you give freely, you are imitating the most generous Giver in the universe, the One who gave His own Son.

Who Is Sharpening You?

“Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend’s countenance.”

PROVERBS 27:17 • WEB

JORDAN AND TWO GROUP CHATS

Jordan had two group chats: one that left him feeling empty, and one that actually asked how his walk with God was going. He realized his friends were not just company. They were sandpaper or steel. He started leaning hard toward the ones who made him sharper.

REFLECT

Are your closest friends making you duller or sharper in your faith?

APPLY

Text one friend who points you to Jesus and ask them to keep you accountable this school year. Offer to do the same for them.

PRAY

Jesus, give me friends who sharpen me, and make me that kind of friend too. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Two pieces of iron sharpen each other only by friction. Real friendship is not always comfortable.

sharpens • Hebrew: ḥāḏad

To make sharp, keen, effective. A dull blade is useless — and so is a faith no one ever challenges.

countenance • Hebrew: pānîm (face)

Literally 'sharpens the face of his friend.' Godly friends literally change the way you carry yourself.

THE BACKDROP

Proverbs were short, memorable sayings passed down to train young people in wisdom. In a world before steel mills, you sharpened a blade by grinding it against another piece of iron — sparks, friction, and all. The picture is intentional: growth requires contact.

WHAT IT MEANS

God grows you through people, especially other believers who love you enough to challenge you. Discipleship is not a solo download from God; it happens in community where friends spur each other on. The friends you choose will either dull your walk with Jesus or sharpen it. Pick the ones who make you keener — and be that kind of friend for someone else.

The Harvest Needs Workers

“The harvest indeed is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into his harvest.”

MATTHEW 9:37, 38 • WEB

CALEB KEEPS PRAYING

Caleb kept praying his scary prayer from Day 8. One night, asking God to send workers into the harvest, it hit him that he might be the answer to his own prayer. He was not scared anymore. He was kind of excited.

REFLECT

When you pray for God to send workers, are you open to being one of them?

APPLY

Keep praying for workers, and ask honestly if you are one. Stay plugged into our Called initiative at calledcast.com, and commit to a monthly Called group, or start one with other Called students and watch the Called Cast together.

PRAY

Jesus, the harvest is huge. Send workers, and here is my honest answer: if You are sending me, I will go. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Jesus looked at desperate crowds and did not see a problem. He saw a harvest.

harvest • Greek: *therismos*

Ripe grain ready to be gathered right now. Jesus sees people not as too far gone, but as ready.

send out • Greek: *ekballō*

To thrust out, even forcefully — the same word for casting out demons. God passionately pushes workers into the field.

THE BACKDROP

Jesus said this while traveling through villages, healing and teaching, surrounded by people 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.' Harvest time was urgent — grain left too long rots in the field. The need was massive and the workers were few.

WHAT IT MEANS

The world is a ready harvest, and God is actively recruiting workers — including students. Notice Jesus says to pray for workers, and many who pray that prayer discover they are the answer to it. A call to ministry is not reserved for adults; God calls students to give their whole lives to His mission. When you pray 'send workers,' be ready for God to whisper, 'Will you go?'

Same Person on Monday

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.”

DANIEL 1:8 • WEB

LAYLA DECIDES AHEAD OF TIME

Layla learned that Daniel decided not to compromise before the pressure ever came. So the Sunday before school, she decided ahead of time who she would be at the party, in the locker room, and in the group chat. When the moment came, she had already chosen.

REFLECT

What decision do you need to make now, before the pressure ever shows up?

APPLY

Decide one line you will not cross this year, and tell one person so they can hold you to it.

PRAY

Jesus, like Daniel, I purpose in my heart to be Yours, even when it costs me. Give me a spine. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Daniel won the battle before it ever started — in his heart, ahead of time.

purposed • Hebrew: *sîm ‘al lēb* (set upon the heart)

He literally 'set it on his heart.' He decided in advance, before the pressure arrived. That is how you win.

defile • Hebrew: *gā’al*

To pollute or stain. Daniel refused to let the king's culture stain who he belonged to.

THE BACKDROP

Daniel was a teenager ripped from his home and dragged to Babylon, the world's most powerful and pagan empire. They tried to rename him, retrain him, and reshape his appetites with the king's rich food. He was outnumbered, far from home, and under enormous pressure to blend in.

WHAT IT MEANS

Holiness is a decision you make before the moment of temptation, not during it. Sanctification — being set apart for God — means deciding ahead of time who you belong to. Daniel did not wait to see how he felt at dinner; he settled it in his heart first. You will face your own 'king's table' this year: decide now, before the pressure, what lines you will not cross, because you belong to God.

Do Not Wait Until You Are Older

“Let no man despise your youth; but be an example to those who believe, in word, in your way of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12 • WEB

MAYA, JUST A FRESHMAN

People told Maya she was just a freshman. But she remembered her hallway was a mission field, so she invited two friends to that Friday lunch table. One of them met Jesus by Thanksgiving. It turned out God was not waiting for her to be a senior.

REFLECT

Where have you been telling yourself you are too young to be used by God?

APPLY

Be the example at your school now. Bring a friend to your campus club or to youth group this week, and ask your youth ministry how you can reach your campus together this year.

PRAY

Jesus, do not let my age be my excuse. Make me an example right now. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

God told a young leader: do not let anyone use your age against you.

despise • Greek: *kataphroneō*

To look down on, to think against. Paul tells Timothy not to let people's low view of his youth shut him down.

example • Greek: *typos*

A stamp or mold that leaves an impression — the word 'type' comes from it. Your life is meant to leave a mark on others.

THE BACKDROP

Timothy was a young pastor leading the influential church in Ephesus, surrounded by older people who doubted him. His mentor Paul did not tell him to wait until he was older — he told him to lead now by example. In that culture, age usually equaled authority, which made this radical.

WHAT IT MEANS

God does not put your calling on hold until you 'grow up.' Your youth is not a disqualification; it is a platform. The way you live — your words, love, faith, and purity — can stamp an impression on people of every age. Do not believe the lie that you are too young to be used by God. Heaven is not waiting on your age; it is waiting on your yes.

Ready With a Reason

“Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with humility and fear.”

1 PETER 3:15 • WEB

ELI GETS A QUESTION AT LUNCH

Someone asked Eli at lunch, “Why do you even believe that?” and he froze. He realized he loved Jesus but had never put into words why. That night he wrote out his story in three sentences, so the next time, he would be ready.

REFLECT

If someone asked you today why you follow Jesus, what would you actually say?

APPLY

Write your story in three sentences: life before Jesus, how you met Him, and what is different now. Practice it once out loud.

PRAY

Jesus, make me ready to tell people about You, with confidence and with gentleness. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Faith is not blind. You can give a real reason for the real hope you carry.

answer • Greek: **apologia**

A reasoned defense, like a lawyer's case in court — the word 'apologetics' comes from it. Your faith stands up to questions.

hope • Greek: **elpis**

Not wishful thinking — confident expectation based on what God has promised. Real hope is unshakable.

THE BACKDROP

Peter wrote to Christians scattered across the Roman Empire who were being mocked and persecuted for their faith. He tells them to be ready when people ask why they are still hopeful in suffering. And he adds the tone: do it 'with gentleness and respect,' not arguing to win.

WHAT IT MEANS

Christianity is not a leap into the dark; it is built on the real, historical resurrection of Jesus. You are allowed — even commanded — to think about your faith and be ready to explain it. But the goal is never to crush someone in an argument; it is to point them to a Person with both confidence and kindness. Your own story of what Jesus has done is one of the most powerful defenses you will ever give.

All In

“For according to their power, I testify, and beyond their power, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much pleading to take part in this grace.”

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3, 4 • WEB

BROOKE'S GROUP GOES ALL IN

Brooke's whole group picked one missionary family and set a goal that felt too big. They washed cars, skipped a few coffee runs, and gave from their own pockets. The Macedonians in this verse gave beyond what they could afford, and Brooke's group found out that kind of giving is contagious and full of joy.

REFLECT

What would it look like for your group to go all in on sending one missionary?

APPLY

Loop back to Day 6 and Day 12, then go further. At pnwstl.com, pick one missionary from our region and rally your youth ministry to set a Speed the Light goal and throw a fundraiser together.

PRAY

Jesus, make me a giver who goes beyond comfortable. Use what we send to carry Your name to the ends of the earth. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The poorest churches Paul knew became the most generous. That is not an accident.

of their own accord • Greek: *authairetos*

Self-chosen, totally voluntary. No one pressured the Macedonians — they begged for the chance to give.

grace • Greek: *charis*

Undeserved gift. Paul calls their giving a 'grace' — it flowed out of the grace they had received from God.

THE BACKDROP

Paul holds up the churches in Macedonia as the gold standard. They were in 'extreme poverty' and going through hard trials, yet they gave 'beyond their ability' and pleaded for the privilege of joining the offering for others. Their joy outran their bank accounts.

WHAT IT MEANS

Real generosity is not about how much you have; it is about how much grace has gripped your heart. People who truly grasp what Jesus gave for them cannot help but give freely to others. Sacrificial giving is contagious and full of joy — it is one of the clearest signs the gospel has actually changed you. When a group goes 'all in' together for God's mission, heaven moves and joy explodes.

Eyes on Jesus, Keep Running

“Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.”

HEBREWS 12:1, 2 • WEB

JADA ALMOST SKIPS DAY 19

Day 19, and Jada almost skipped it. She was tired. Then she read that faith is a race you run with endurance, eyes on Jesus, not a sprint you finish at camp. She laced up and kept going. The journey was turning into a lifestyle.

REFLECT

What weight do you need to lay down so you can keep running with Jesus into this year?

APPLY

Name one thing that slows your walk with Jesus, and take one real step to drop it this week.

PRAY

Jesus, You are the author and the finisher. Eyes on You, I will keep running. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

The Christian life is a marathon, not a camp high. This verse tells you how to finish.

entangles • Greek: **euperistatos**

Sin that wraps around your legs and trips you mid-stride. Some things are not 'big sins' — they are just weights that slow you down.

author • Greek: **archēgos**

Pioneer, trailblazer, founder. Jesus ran the race first and blazed the trail you are running on.

THE BACKDROP

Hebrews 12 paints a packed stadium: 'a great cloud of witnesses' — the faith heroes of chapter 11 — cheering you on as you run. Greek runners stripped off every extra ounce of weight before a race. The author says faith is endurance (Greek: hypomonē), staying under the load and not quitting.

WHAT IT MEANS

Following Jesus is a long-distance race that you run by perseverance, not a sprint you finish at camp. The secret is where you fix your eyes: on Jesus, who started this faith and will perfect it. He is not just your example — He is your finisher, the One who guarantees you can make it. Lay down the weights, lock your eyes on Him, and keep running. Glory to glory is a journey, not a moment.

Here Am I, Send Me

"I heard the Lord's voice, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'"

ISAIAH 6:8 • WEB

CALEB ANSWERS OUT LOUD

Twenty days ago Caleb whispered, "Speak, I am listening." Today he read God's question, "Who will go?" and this time he did not freeze. He answered out loud in his bedroom, "Here am I. Send me." Camp was the trailhead. This was him deciding to walk the whole way.

REFLECT

God is still asking, "Who will go?" What is your honest answer today?

APPLY

This is not the end of the journey, it is the start of the lifestyle. If you sense a call to full time ministry, dive into calledcast.com and lock into a monthly Called group. Whatever God is asking, give Him your yes, then keep going, glory to glory, all year long.

PRAY

Jesus, You are worth the whole journey. Here I am. Send me. I am Yours for life. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

God asked an open question to the whole universe. One man answered, and history changed.

send • Hebrew: *shālah*

To send out with a commission and authority. The same heart behind the word 'apostle' — sent ones.

us • Hebrew: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'

God says 'us' — a glimpse of the one God who is Father, Son, and Spirit, inviting you into His mission.

THE BACKDROP

Isaiah saw this vision 'in the year King Uzziah died' — a moment of national fear and uncertainty. He saw the Lord high and lifted up, heard angels cry 'Holy, holy, holy,' and was undone by God's greatness and his own sin. Only after God cleansed him with a burning coal did Isaiah hear the question, 'Who will go?'

WHAT IT MEANS

Surrender always follows a real encounter with who God is. Isaiah did not volunteer until he saw the holiness of God and received God's cleansing — and then he could not hold back. That is the pattern: behold God, be made clean, get sent. 'Here am I, send me' is the natural overflow of a heart that has truly met Jesus. Camp was the trailhead. This is you deciding to walk the whole way — Yours for life.

20 DAYS AFTER CAMP

Notes & Prayers