



CALLED

BE·DO·TELL

2020 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

PARENT'S CAMP CONNECTION

**"HE HAS SAVED US AND
CALLED US TO A HOLY LIFE..."**
2 TIMOTHY 1:9



2020 SUMMER
YOUTH WEEKS

2020 BEDOTELL CAMP PARENT CONNECTION

This week, your teenager is at camp enjoying friends and the beach, worshipping, packing food for people in Haiti and listening to what God may be saying to them. We are called into a relationship with God, the great creator of this world, who wanted a relationship with us so badly that He sent His son to fulfill the debt of our sin that separated us from God. He made a way for us to be in His presence for all eternity if we place our faith and trust in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. John 10:10 says, "The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (ESV).

We are all called to have abundant life. The mundane of this life, the hardships, the struggles, the joys and the sorrows of now can be redeemed for all eternity through a relationship with Jesus. The life God has for us is a life of abundance — not an abundance of things — but of His love, grace, mercy and peace. He wants us to do things that have eternal impact. We need to figure out how to make each day count because we are called to make a difference.

We all must have a transformational experience with Jesus to make our lives count for eternity. [Barna Research Group conducted a study revealing](#) that it's common for young adults to call themselves Christian, but it is much less common for them to find their identity in Jesus. Barna states, "Most Americans say they are Christians, but few follow that up with deep, heart-level, life-directing commitments. This is true of all generations, and it remains true of young adults in the U.S., two-thirds of whom identify as Christian."

In their book, "*Faith for Exiles*," Barna terms those who follow Jesus at a deeper level as resilient disciples."

"What's so remarkable about resilient disciples is that they truly exhibit a higher level of intimacy with Jesus than other young adults raised in the faith," states Barna president David Kinnaman. "It's heartbreaking to find that only about half of habitual churchgoers — young adults who attend church with regularity — strongly agree with the straightforward questions about Jesus."

"How is it possible to show up week after week, year after year, without believing and experiencing Jesus more fully?" Kinnaman asks. "Habitual churchgoers should top the list of churches' discipleship priorities; many of these young Christians are primed and ready for a deeper experience of (and commitment to) Christ."

"It is easy to call oneself a Christian, but much less common to find deep joy in Jesus."

Why are so many students attending church week after week without knowing who Jesus truly is? Maybe because the "call" is not being taken seriously enough. We accept Christ as our Savior and are baptized, but the growth that comes from reading God's Word and being in a Bible study, and serving the Lord in our local church isn't consistent. Over time, the calling becomes faint.

Our prayer this summer is that your teenager will hear God's call whether for salvation for the first time or for a deeper walk that affects who they are and what they do, so that they will discover the true purpose for their lives.

We want you as their parent to understand how you can connect with them when they come home. So we are giving you the daily focus themes and then some questions that you can ask them on their return. You might ask, "How was camp?" They could reply, "Fun." And then you might hear about the food, friends or crazy things that went on, but we want you to know what to ask them to see how much they learned in their spiritual walk with Jesus.

As a parent, you are the spiritual leaders in your home. You can only do this if you have placed your faith and trust in Jesus for forgiveness of your sin. So on Tuesday, we will look at salvation through Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY

Session Title: Called to Follow Jesus

Purpose: Students will understand that being a Christian means answering a call to follow Jesus for salvation and lordship. "Once saved, forever following..."

Students will look at the principle that there is "one hope that belongs to your call" (Eph. 4:4), and walk through several examples from the Gospels of Jesus' call to the disciples to follow Him (Matt. 4:19, John 1:35-51)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-7; John 1:35-51; Luke 9:23

Questions to ponder and ask:

Is Christ in you? Have you made a profession of your faith in Jesus, who is God's Son, who died the death you deserve to pay the penalty for your sin? His resurrection from the grave reveals His power to not only provide forgiveness of our sins but the power to be in God's presence for all eternity. Do you believe His Word? His Word claims that Christ alone is able to save sinners, that God alone is worthy of worship and all that do not receive God's grace found in Christ will spend eternity in hell. If this foundation is in you then you should have a deep desire to see people come to know Christ through your life. Do you?

Have you asked your teenager if they have made such a decision for themselves? That desire requires us to be abandoned to His will for us to be His witness to the world.

Describe your life in Christ. How did you come to know Jesus? What difference has your relationship with Jesus made in your life?

Do you delight in knowing Him and desire to share Him with all those around you? Do my children know of my faith in Jesus Christ? Can they see Him in me? Or do I go about the motions of religion instead of a growing relationship, daily spent in God's word?

WEDNESDAY

Session Title: Called to Truth

Purpose: Students will build upon the call to follow Jesus by understanding the call to one truth, Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Bible.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16; John 14:6; John 17:17-19; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

The question for today is: How will I fill my mind with truth? Teenagers spend an average of 8.5 hours with media per day — adults spend maybe half of that number. We realize that everything on the internet is not true, but many teens do not. We must counterbalance what we put into our minds with the truth of God's Word. What plan will you and your family implement to fill your mind with things of Christ?

How will you read God's Word? Will you read two or three chapters a day? Maybe start a Bible reading plan? What about a weekly family devotion? As disciples of Jesus, we must be intentional about filling our minds with His truth. When we set our minds on godly things, it keeps us from setting our minds on worldly things. The more we hear and enjoy Christ, the more we live a life of joy and pursuit to honor Christ in the world.

How will you memorize Scripture? The first thing that comes to my mind in a crisis is Scriptures I have memorized. We need to be memorizing His Word to be ready for anything that is thrown at us including temptations.

Learning from God's Word involves community. Are you faithful to a local church? Do you participate in small group Bible studies? We need to not only hear God's Word being preached, but to also apply His Word for transformation in our lives. This is done by walking alongside others, asking questions, praying and encouraging one another, and keeping each other accountable. This is done best in relationships.

THURSDAY

Session Title: Called to Identity

Purpose: Students will understand that they just don't have a general calling from Jesus, but He has given them a special calling, a specific identity in Christ.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Ephesians 4:17-24; Genesis 11; Revelation 3:17

God has made each person very unique and special. God's Word gives us the instruction manual to understand how we fit into God's plan and purpose with our lives. A lot of the advice and instruction we receive from culture, peers and social media will only be a distorted view of who we really are. All of us can fall prey to words that hurt, someone overlooking us and making us feel worthless. Some people won't accept us and we will feel unwanted. Some may laugh at us instead of affirming us and we feel unloved. The list can go on, because the world says we are one thing, but God says another. Your teenagers are bombarded with these feelings that lead to anxieties and wanting to be invisible every day. Can you remember a time when you were younger and what someone said or did still plagues you today from being all God wants you to feel and believe about yourself?

Psalm 139:14 says, "I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well." Do you believe this? Does your teenager? We must begin to see ourselves as wondrously made and to know God's Word so well that we believe it in order to live in a world that will always bring lies about who we are. If we have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are called a child of God. We were created to know God and make Him known — that's our purpose. How do you use your gifts and talents to praise God? How do you stop the negative talk in your head so you don't continue to believe the lies?

Pricilla Shirer writes in her book "Defined" that we have to learn to believe the following about who we are in Christ: "I am who God says I am; I can do what God says I can do; I can become exactly what God says I can become; I'm not defined by my feelings, my weaknesses or my inclinations; I will not devalue what He has made me to be by comparing it to what seems better and brighter in someone else; I am coming out of the lies; I am coming into the light."

FRIDAY

Session Title: Called to Live Differently

Purpose: Students will understand that they are not just called to be “saved” but to surrender to a life that goes against culture.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25-5:2; 1 John 2:6; Luke 19:1-10; Daniel 1

Our aim is not simply to know God; our aim is to love God, and the more we read His Word, the more we delight in His glory. Scripture says that we are to do everything for God’s glory: “Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, do it all for the glory of God.”

Can you say that people recognize you as different — that there is a special call on your life? Can you see that in your teenagers?

Many times as parents we say we want to know what our children are doing, but in reality it can be easier to ignore signs of misbehavior. Somehow we justify that as long as we don’t know then we don’t have to confront the issue or help redirect their behavior. The longer we believe that lie, the worse shape we will find ourselves or our teenagers in — which is far from God and His plan for their lives. Be proactive and confront where you see hints of behaviors and beliefs that do not line up with God’s truth.

Every believer is one who is called by God. Every believer is called to accomplish His purposes in them and through them. When you receive Christ into your life, did you understand that at that same moment you were releasing your life to be used any way that God would choose? What about your teen’s life?

God knows we can function this way because of the presence of His Holy Spirit indwelling in our lives after salvation. As we live out the call of God on our lives, our heavenly Father will shape your life and provide all you need to follow Him.

What are your greatest fears of living a life so others will know you have been called by God to make a difference in this world? Ask your teenager that. How can you as a family overcome those fears? Looking at your neighborhood and town, what things could you all be involved in to spread the love of Christ? Are there families in need? Could you host a children’s block party with games, snacks and a lesson from the Bible? Are there light construction projects, a yard to mow or a ramp to build that would assist someone older in your community?

A call to salvation is a call to be on mission for the Lord. This call is for all who are called into a relationship with Christ — not just a select few. How terrible it would be for a Christian to waste the one life and opportunity to be a coworker with Christ! Have you been living your life with the understanding that one day you will give an account of how you invested your life? Are you serving God or looking out for self? How does this shape the way you and your family live? 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (CSB).

Consider this quote from Henry Blackaby in “Called and Accountable:” “The call of God is a call to a total relationship with God for the purpose He had for us from before the foundation of the world. God calls us by causing us to want to do His will and then enabling us to do it. He first calls each of us to be His child by faith in Jesus, His Son. In that relationship, God has provided all we need to live fully with Him. That relationship will always involve us in His redemptive activity in our world. As God works through us in our world, we will come to know Him and grow toward Christlikeness. A Christ-like character is God’s preparation for eternity with Him. What a plan and what a purpose God has for each of us!”