

The

BASICS

LOVE GOD • LOVE OTHERS

JOURNAL





This Journal Belongs to:

CONTENTS



<i>Contributors</i>	6
<i>The Basics</i>	12
<i>Sherley's Story</i>	20
Erika Brown	
<i>Five Amazing Words</i>	24
Shelly Walker	
<i>Identity</i>	28
Marina Runnion-Bareford	
<i>New Heights</i>	32
Lindsay Spang	
<i>God's Love</i>	36
Julie VanderLeest	
<i>Impacting Your World</i>	38
Sheril Brasher	
<i>The Truth About You</i>	40
Sheril Brasher	
<i>Quiet Time</i>	44
<i>Devotions on the Book of Luke</i>	46
Various	
<i>Devotions on the Book of First John</i>	94
Various	
<i>Notes</i>	104
<i>Graphs</i>	128
<i>Measures, Conversions, & International Sizes</i>	138

**Published by the Mission Adventures Studio
Youth With A Mission San Diego/Baja**

Editor in Chief Craig McClurg
Article Editor Sheril Brasher
Devotional Editor Beth Konrath
Proofreading Marcia Zimmermann

Some Photos & Illustrations © Copyright Shutterstock
 All Contents © Copyright 2012 Mission Adventures except where noted.

www.missionadventures.net

Youth With A Mission San Diego/Baja, 100 W. 35th St., Ste. C
 National City, CA 91950 USA

CONTRIBUTORS

**Sheril Brasher**

I'm from Alabama and I'm on staff with YWAM in San Diego with Mission Adventures. My passions include short-term missions, student ministry, singing, reading and watching movies & TV shows. Check out my website; sherilbrasher.info.

**Erika Brown**

I'm from Northern California and I did my DTS at YWAM Ensenada. Last year I took a group of Haitian missionaries to the Amazon—it was incredible!

**Brian Carlton**

I was born and raised in San Diego, CA and currently living in Tampa, FL. I am the Worship Arts Pastor at LifePoint Church. I have 36 tattoos... and counting. My favorite Bible verse is 1 Timothy 4:12-13.

**Phil Cunningham**

I was born in Ireland, raised in Canada, and currently living in a 31 foot travel trailer in the USA with my wife and 3 daughters. I work with YWAM with a ministry I helped start called Steps of Justice. It is a movement that helps students engage with areas of injustice, like poverty, human trafficking, slavery and more.

**Jackie Doyle**

I love hanging with youth and helping them to get to know Jesus and live out their faith. Working with incarcerated youth is my newest adventure. You should tell me about your MA experience at Jackie.doyle@godbehindbars.com; Would love to hear from you!

**Dave Dubrall**

I was born and raised in So. Cal in the 805. I served in YWAM for 7 years, 5 of which were in Idaho as a mountain man. In N' Out is the California Embassy. There is motion in the ocean and don't forget the bacon.

CONTRIBUTORS



JP Godin

I am on staff at YWAM Burtigny in Switzerland. My wife and I are pioneering Mission Adventures in the French part of Switzerland. I did my DTS in Ensenada, Mexico. My favorite book in the Bible is 1 Samuel.



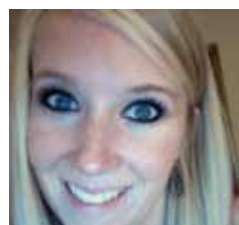
Mike Gervasi

I'm from SoCal and currently living in Salem, OR on staff with YWAM. I did my DTS at YWAM Salem with an outreach to Thailand/Cambodia. I was on *The PriceIs Right* and won stuff.



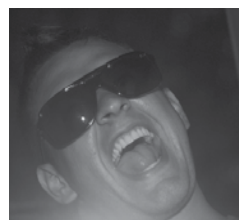
Rebekah Gervassi

I'm from North Carolina and currently living in Salem, OR on staff with YWAM. I did my DTS at YWAM Orlando in 2007 with outreach to Russia. My favorite verse is Hebrews 11:1



Lacey Gray

I'm a blessed, blue-eyed blond who has an amazing husband, a great family and friends, and God has huge plans for me. What more could I ask for??? Thank you Lord!!!



Samuel Lee Henderson

I'm from Modesto, CA and have been in Las Vegas with YWAM since 2007 where I've been taking high school and university students on mission trips. I dream about my generation waking up to their true identity. Daily I try to stay awake, in the identity and calling God has set me apart for (1 Peter 2:9)



Beth Konrath

I grew up in Nova Scotia and moved to Las Vegas in 2009 to join YWAM. I'm passionate about people and seeing them walk in *freedom*, and their true calling as sons and daughters of the High King! Reach me at bethk@ywamlasvegas.org.

CONTRIBUTORS



Kay Charlotte McClurg

I was born in Oklahoma and now reside in San Diego. I've been in YWAM for 22 years, and one of my favorite experiences was standing face-to-face with a practicing cannibal and not getting eaten.



Marina Runnion-Bareford

I work with YWAM Idaho. I was adopted from Russia when I was seven years old and grew up on a farm in New Hampshire. I love working with children, drinking coffee, reading books and spending time with my amazing fiancé, Aaron.



Lindsay Spang

I'm from Oregon and I live in Tijuana, Mexico with YWAM. My favorite TV show is *Avatar*, *The Last Airbender* and I have watched the entire series three times. I have been a missionary for six years and it is the greatest job and calling I could have ever imagined. Twitter: @linspang



Julie VanderLeest

I grew up in Ontario, California, not Canada. During my free time, I enjoy watching the sunset, driving through downtown San Diego, and spending time with my family. Isaiah 58:11 and 2 Timothy 2:3 are two of my life verses.



Shelly Walker

I'm married to the handsome Cody Walker and I work with students at Shelter Cove Community Church in Modesto, CA. I love missions, youth ministry, laughing, and eating tacos in Ensenada. And I believe writing a devotion is much easier than writing a short bio about myself.



Andrea Walston (Not Pictured)

I grew up in Onion Creek, Washington. I have been on DTS staff at YWAM Las Vegas for 2 years and there's too much to say about it in a short biography. If you're ever in Vegas and want to tear up the streets on roller blades, hit me up.

Tim Walter

I'm blessed with an amazing family, and I love to serve God at YWAM Salem. I get to be the chairman of the Mission Adventures Leadership Team here in North America, and that means I have to learn how to use email.

THE BASICS

**HEART
SOUL
MIND
STRENGTH**

You must love the Lord your God
with all your heart, all your soul,
all your strength, and all your
mind. And, love your neighbor as
yourself.

—Luke 10:27 (NLT)

THE BASICS

Love God

First, it's the Greatest Commandment—to love God with nothing less than everything we are. Have you ever wondered why, though? Is He so desperate that He *commands* us to love Him? I don't think so—it seems like the opposite. The whole Bible shows us that God is radically giving His love to us. From creation until now, we see God creating us, choosing us, and He even calls us “very good.” God is for us. He always has our best interest in mind, He thinks good thoughts towards us and creates beautiful plans for us. He takes care of us, provides for us and calls us His own. When we really get to know God, we find that it is a natural response to fall in love with Him. This commandment from God, to love God, was for our good. This is God calling us into the very best, a relationship with the Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit; a relationship that requires all of our emotions, energy, hopes, dreams, intellect, and effort.

Love Others

It is from our true, wholehearted love for God that the second most important commandment can be lived out. Love your neighbor as yourself. In society today the golden rule is not to put others first. It is all about *me*. We ask ourselves, “What can I get? What is the plan for my life? How will I succeed? How do I get the most popular? How do I look the best?” This reflects our selfish culture, not the culture of the Kingdom of God. But when we love God with everything we have in us, it is the next step to really start loving others as we love ourselves. Becoming fully drenched in God's love, and reflecting love back to Him, we begin seeing others as God sees them.

Love the Lord your God with everything and then love your neighbor as yourself. When we fall so deeply in love with God we can start to feel His heart for others, and from His heart we can really love others.

These two commandments are the very central part of our walk with God. Anything and everything we do is rooted in loving God and loving others. Whether we worship, serve, teach, or go on missions trips, it is all founded in these. They are The Basics. It is how those who do not know the truth will recognize the truth in us.

THE BASICS

Identity and Inheritance

As we waited on God for this theme, all of us had strong impressions about the twin ideas of identity and inheritance. We all recalled verses that spoke about us being hidden in Christ, (Colossians 3:3), and identifying with Him and His suffering, (Romans 8:17). As the theme became more clear, we saw that loving God is at the core of our identity. It runs to the very foundations of who we are.

In Ephesians it talks about adoption, (Ephesians 1:5); how God chose us to be co-heirs with Christ. We are His sons and daughters. Our identity should not be rooted in the piece of dirt of where we are from, what job we have, what we like to do, etc. As lovers of God we are included with Christ, we are marked with a seal, (Ephesians 4:30). We have been adopted and are included in this glorious inheritance. We are children of the Most High, (Galatians 3:26) belonging not of this world, (1 Peter 2:9) but to the kingdom of heaven.

It is through these promises that we can have the confidence to see ourselves as God sees us. In God's kingdom we learn that hating ourselves is hating what God has called good. We need to have a certain appreciation for how God has made us. This is different than the, "It's all about me," infatuation. This is a real, solid, appreciation for God's creation, and who He has created us to be.

The Glory of God

God's desire is for every person to know Him, (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus is on about his Father's business of revealing God's glory in the nations, (Ezekiel 39:21). And He's getting it done, and He's inviting us to participate, (Matthew 16:24). See, He chooses to spread the good news to the world using us. Someday soon, the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

When we love God with our whole being, it will become natural for us to be lined up with what He's doing in the world. What He loves will become what we love, and it will overflow from our hearts to even the far corners of the world!

People will know we are followers of Christ because of our love for one another. (John 13:35) When we are fully devoted to God, we'll take the glory of God to the nations.

THE BASICS

A Continuous Spilling

There is an analogy about water glasses that we use to describe God pouring Himself on us. The image is God as a fountain, pouring water into us as a cup. In our lives, a lot of times we take our God-filled cups and go out into the world, pouring that God-goodness out onto someone else, leaving us empty to be filled again. These greatest commandments paint a different picture. Instead of taking our filled cup to someone else, we remain in the outpouring of God-goodness, overflowing His love and goodness onto all those around us.



SHERLEY'S STORY



Erika Brown

“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”
Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

We were in the Amazon in Brazil the day Sherley revealed to me a piece of her true identity. We walked up to the malaria clinic on the YWAM base so she could get her blood tested because she hadn't been feeling well for several days. Eloise, the nurse, asked us to sit down with her outside so she could record the visit. She asked Sherley her name, what her symptoms were, and then asked her how old she was, and that is as far as they got. Sherley told Eloise she was twenty-four. But she had told me and the rest of the Discipleship Training School that she was twenty-six. Her passport said she was twenty-six. The Brazilian visa that she signed for said she was twenty-six. I even bragged to the rest of our outreach team that she and I were the same age. So I corrected her.

That was when she told me, “I don't want to say I'm twenty-six anymore, because I'm really twenty-four.”

“Oh!” I gawked.



Then Sherley explained a part of her life story I'm not sure she'd ever shared before, “When my mom was pregnant, my dad wanted my mom to kill me,” she said. “But my mom didn't want to do that, and after I was born, my dad said that I was not his child.”

Continues on the next page...

SHERLEY'S STORY

When Sherley's mom refused to abort her, her father left. This meant that when Sherley was born she didn't receive a birth certificate. She had no formal identification until she was two, when her father's brother met her. Sherley told us, "I had an uncle that loved me so much. He gave me a birth certificate. But I was born in 1987 and he put 1985. So all my life my papers have always said that I am the wrong age."

Okay, so maybe to you and me a mixed up date isn't that big of a deal. It was just a typo on some form, right? Not to Sherley. This woman had been misidentified her whole life. She'd been telling a little lie every time she told people her age. And this little mistake was all because of her father's rejection. Something rose up in Sherley that day. No more little lies, it was time for the truth.

I sat outside the clinic with Sherley in the Amazon and tried to get over my disbelief. I heard the Lord speak to me, "Her earthly father may not have been there the day she was born, and no human may have correctly recorded her entry into the world, but, *'I saw her before she was born. Every day of her life is recorded in my book. All of her moments were laid out before a single day passed.'*" (Psalm 139:16 paraphrased). In that moment I was reminded how deeply and intimately our God knows us, and how He loves and cares about every detail of our lives.

It took until Sherley was twenty-four before she began to grasp her true identity in Him. And it took four and a half months of God revealing truth to her in a Discipleship Training School before she gained the courage to stand up for her real identity. It was truly beautiful when she did. It was such a privilege to watch Jesus reveal Himself to her. I realized then that I would travel any distance to get to be a part of how the Lord gives His people the freedom to be who they truly are.

Before you take off and busy yourself with everything you will do today, take a few minutes and let this verse sink in and speak to you about who you really are: *"You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes... you are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you."*
Galatians 3:26-27, 29b.

Editor's Note: *Sherley shared more with us about her story and how attending a Discipleship Training School impacted her life, "I was filled with pride, but God changed me, DTS changed me. God has done a great work in my life. I was selfish but God showed me a lot of good things in my DTS. Now I want to be a missionary and to share the Gospel wherever God sends me!"*

FIVE AMAZING WORDS



Shelly Walker

Read Romans 12:1-21

Did you zone out because of all those verses? I'll help you out. Read just verse 1 over again. And really let it sink in. If you have been a Christ follower for more than a few days, you've probably heard this verse before. It sounds a little barbaric when you really sit and think about it doesn't it. That's probably because you're focusing on the whole "living sacrifice" part. Read it one more time. In the New International Version, the 6th-10th words of this passage (which you may have glossed over due to familiarity!) are *huge*. "In view of God's mercy." Whoa! Now we may have down the *what* of the passage – the idea of trying to be a living sacrifice (giving our all to God, allowing *Him* to control what's going on in our day-to-day), but what about the *why*. Why am I trying to be a living sacrifice? Well, if you're doing it on your own or with yourself then there probably isn't a good reason. But, when you take the 6th-10th words and really let them sink in, you may have a better idea. Mercy. God's mercy. My view of God's mercy.

So, stop and ask yourself right now what your view of God's mercy is. Do those five words, "in view of God's mercy" smack you on the face in thankfulness? Or is it sort of just, "Ho hum, this is boring."? Because if you are truly able to view - even glimpse - God's mercy, shouldn't that change things?



I don't know how you felt as you read through the rest of Romans 12. But when I read it, I see how greatly I'm lacking. I'm lacking in my love for the Lord. I'm lacking in my love for others. I often think of myself more highly than I ought. My love isn't always very sincere. Sometimes I cling to the wrong things instead of God. I am prideful. I'm guessing I'm not alone in these confessions and I'm assuming you can relate. So what do we do?

Continues on the next page...

FIVE AMAZING WORDS

Put on the “mercy goggles” and view God’s mercy! Keep it in your view! That *has* to change us. If we are gazing at God’s mercy instead of staring at our own problems and garbage, there is no way we can remain unchanged. Jesus Christ suffered and died on a cross for me and for you. He implored His Father “why have you forsaken Me?” for you and for me. That is not ho-hum material, folks! That is, as they say, kind of a big deal.

Read Romans 12 one more time. This time, keep those mercy goggles on the *whole* time you are reading it and don’t zone out. So, in view of God’s mercy, how can you love God, and love others?

IDENTITY



Marina Runnion-Bareford

How many times have you heard the word 'identity', or listened to a sermon on your identity, or listened to someone talk to you about your identity? How many times have you listened and then walked away, feeling more confused, guilty, angry and condemned?

Personally, I have spent many years wrestling with my own identity issues. As an adopted child growing up in a large family, I didn't know how to deal with the turmoil I felt inside, so I went on with my life, trying to blend in with others.

I grew up knowing all the verses about God's perfect will and love, all the ones on adoption, and all the ones about having a new identity in Christ. When my adoption story came up in the presence of guests, I knew how to push down the memories and put on a show. I learned how to smile when people told me how lucky I was to be adopted into this new family and new country. Yet at the end of the day I would curl up in bed, and as the darkness invaded my room, I would cry. I felt so desperate for the peace and joy those verses promised, but I never felt. I put a band-aid on a gaping wound and smiled big, so everybody would see that I was happy.

Being honest with myself and God was way too painful and scary, so I avoided my reality as long as possible. I would cover my questions with all the nice verses I knew, but deep in my heart did not believe.



This past year, God brought me back to address this deep-rooted issue I had let fester over the years. I fought, kicked, cried, and ignored Him for a while until my solutions left me broken and deeply hurt. I ran down as many side trails I could find, but they all left me empty, confused, and desperate. I came back to God, scared of what He was going to do to me, but He simply started again in the same place where I had quit.

Continues on the next page...

IDENTITY

I really wanted to know who I was, because I no longer knew, and I was scared of the person I saw myself becoming. My pride had vanished, and in its place stood a girl who was out of excuses. I was willing to listen for the first time in my life and God told me who I was in His eyes.

“All beautiful you are, my darling, there is no flaw in you...” (Song of Songs 4:7)

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See I have engraved you in the palms of My Hands; you are ever before me...” (Isaiah 49:15, 16)

“God chose the foolish things of the world, to shame the wise, God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not to nullify the things that are...” (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...’” (Jeremiah 29:11-14)

These are real words from God, but for many of us these are painful to read. They may bring up memories, stir up questions, anger, or reawaken a longing inside, that once upon a time was there. For some, the reality of being fully known, loved, and wanted is an oxymoron and the first thing we ask ourselves when we read these words is, “What does He want?” There must be a catch somewhere in this pretty picture.

What makes God so amazing is that He is who He says He is and it will never change with time or circumstance. He does not manipulate or play games with the children He loves.

God says simply to you today... “My Son, My daughter, I chose you before you knew your name...or your country... I chose you to stand before Me, I chose you to pour out My love on... I see no blemish, no ugly past, no baggage, no mistake... I am God and I have set My seal of love on your life, I signed the adoption papers before you ever knew you were an orphan.”

God leaves us with a choice—to accept the adoption, choose the identity or to walk away.

When you and I run to Him, there in His arms we will know who we are. In the light of His Love, our identity is going to be clear, because we were made in His image, to bear His likeness.

NEW HEIGHTS



Lindsay Spang

Two years ago I started running. At the time I was living in Ensenada, Mexico. Most of the time I would choose to run into town, because it brought ownership of the city to my heart. There were various landmarks and routes I would take to run different distances, but all of them were on flat pavement.

This year I moved to Tijuana. The YWAM campus where we live is set on a fairly steep hill. To run any kind of distance there is no escaping the massive hills. It discouraged me and my running routine has suffered because of it. Since being here, God has been challenging me a lot to get into the Word, pray more, and basically just spend more time with Him. I feel like a lot of times I have floated through my faith, doing the minimum, but not ever pushing myself to the next level.

Recently, I went on a retreat with our Homes of Hope team to a place called the Bajamar. As well as a hotel, it is also has a golf course, set right on the beach. One time when we weren't meeting, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and go for a run.

Soon after starting I found the golf cart trail that led down towards the beach and through the golf course. As I ran down the hill I was picking up so much speed my feet almost couldn't keep up, it was that steep! Once at the bottom it slowly dawned on me that at some point I was going to have to climb a ridiculously steep hill.

I began making fun of my predicament, calling the hills I would climb small mountains. God slowly made His voice heard in my



thoughts. He spoke to me about mountains; how climbing one was hard. It physically hurts, it requires endurance and a whole lot of determination. However when you reach the top of the mountain there is rest, recovery and a really great view!

Continues on the next page...

NEW HEIGHTS

He gave me a great metaphor. As I was challenged in my running, I was also challenged spiritually. Instead of staying on level ground and sticking with what I knew, I needed to push myself to a new level. While doing the minimum is easy, I needed to run towards God and push myself to new heights in our relationship. The reward is worth it!

After returning to Tijuana, I started trying to find new routes. One of those times, I was just finishing a particularly hilly run. As I was turning off my playlist, God told me to listen to the next song. It was “Dance with Me” by Jesus Culture. The first words of the song were, “Behold you have come over the hills up on the mountains. To Me you will run, My beloved, you’ve captured My heart.” I felt as if God was speaking the words of the song over me. The next verse, “With you I will go, you are My love, you are My fair one. The winter has passed and the springtime has come.”

The amazing thing is, as I was pushing myself to reach the next level both physically and spiritually, God was totally responding to my efforts. I don’t feel like I have reached that mountain top yet, but God spoke to me through a song about how He will go with me though the journey.

To love God with everything—body, soul, mind and strength—takes effort, commitment, and determination. It is hard, sometimes you have to push for it. But pushing for a deeper, real relationship with God, pushing to be constantly in His presence, is worth it! It will constantly take you to new levels and when you get there you will look back amazed because what God has done in your life. You will be a new person, constantly conforming to the likeness of God. There will be great rewards and a killer view!

GOD'S LOVE



Julie VanderLeest

I received God's call on my life to serve in urban ministry during my Discipleship Training School (DTS) in 2009. I went to San Francisco and worked with the homeless, prostitutes and drug addicts. The conversations I had broke my heart. Each person I met was messed up. Some people wanted nothing to do with anybody, and some were satanic. I prayed with each person, and a couple of them accepted Christ into their lives. My heart was ruined in love and my life was forever changed in San Francisco.

Today I work with YWAM in San Diego. I pray over the city and talk to the homeless men and women. I continue to talk to a lot of people who want someone to love them. We host Urban Evangelism Mission Adventures teams in the summers. We lead the students through a variety of ministries, such as street evangelism, serving at the soup kitchens, and packaging food at Feeding America.

My passion for the city continues to grow and I firmly believe that God is doing some radical transformations in the streets of the cities. I have already witnessed many lives changed in San Francisco and believe that God will do the same in San Diego. I allow God's love to shine through me by loving those who don't know what love is.

God has called everyone to love because He first loved them. God's love is so deep and intimate that there isn't anything His people can do to change that. God is love; He is the creator of it. When Jesus died on the cross, He asked the Father to forgive the ones



that put Him there. Jesus died on that cross for the world because of love. That is how much God loves you. God wants you to love Him because He is crazy about you. He's your heavenly Father. Many people in this world don't understand what it means to have a relationship with Christ. Many have not heard the gospel. God calls His people to spread His love all around by loving others and sharing God's love with them. That is one big way that you can love God, by sharing the love of God with the people around you. People will see God's love in you by your actions and the way you treat others.

IMPACTING YOUR WORLD



Sheril Brasher

For four years I lived in Ensenada, Mexico serving as a full-time missionary. While living there I came into contact with so many wonderful people who started ministries in their homes. I have heard stories of how these ministries were started and they were really birthed out of the immediate need in their own neighborhoods. They didn't set out to change the world or solve all the problems, but to meet the needs of just one—one person, one family, one community.

The stories go on and on. They are heart-wrenching and tragic at times. It is overwhelming at times to imagine these people living in these conditions and not knowing love. It makes me think of the many children in our own backyards and neighborhoods that don't know what true love is all about. This happens in our own cities, not just impoverished countries. So it begs the question: What are we doing about it? Would we be willing to feed all the neighborhood kids out of our own pockets? Would we be willing to step in and take in a child with extreme medical needs? I find that it tends to be easy to walk past this hurt and need in the States because I think someone else will take care of it. As much as I love missions and want people to come to Mexico to serve the people there, who says we can't, and shouldn't, do that same thing in our cities, in our hometowns, in our backyards?



Matthew 25: 34-40 talks about feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, looking after the sick and visiting the prisoners and what we do for the “least of these” we do to the Lord. What are you doing for the least of these? What are you doing to impact the world around you?

THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU



Sheril Brasher

I have been a Christian my whole life. I have never once questioned God's existence or His authority in my life. I have never doubted His love for me. My struggle has always been man. I have been told some horrible things about myself throughout my life. Things like "If you lost 50 pounds guys would be all over you", or "You look like you are wearing a fat suit", or "You're not pretty enough", or "Why can't you do better in school like your sister?" Sadly so many times these words and lies were spoken by people of authority, people like my parents, teachers and even fellow Christians; sometimes even said with good intentions. I heard these kinds of things so often by people I trusted that I started to believe them about myself. I walked around for so many years believing these lies as if they were truth, even for as long as 15 years.

I moved to Ensenada, Mexico in 2006 to attend a Discipleship Training School with YWAM. For some people, this five-month time spent with God is about getting to know Him better. That wasn't the case for me. God wanted me to get to know myself and how He sees me. I had the thought one night as I was talking with some friends that my life was like a clay doll that God was molding and creating (the Bible does compare Him to the Potter and us to the clay in Isaiah 64:8). When God began working on me, like clay, I was very soft, malleable. He was able to shape me exactly the way He wanted. As time went on, I picked up pieces and placed them on myself (these lies that I believed). Some I had carried for a long time and had already begun to dry. As God spoke, He began tearing off these extra pieces (the lies) and sometimes it hurt as He had to break them, taking part of His original creation with



it. After all the lies were stripped away, God was able to smooth out the rough edges and remind me of who He had created me to be. I realized that I hadn't been walking in my inheritance. If you are like me, perhaps you need to be reminded who God has created you to be. The only person you should be wanting to please is God. Everything else will fall into place. Keep your eyes on Him and He will bring people along side of you that will affirm you, and not tear you down.

Continues on the next page...

THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU

You are a child of God. (John 1:12)

You are a friend of Jesus. (John 15:15)

You have been justified and redeemed. (Romans 3:24)

As a child of God, you are a fellow heir with Christ. (Romans 8:17)

You have been accepted by Christ. (Romans 15:7)

You are joined to the Lord and are one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

You are a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

You are no longer a slave, but a child and an heir. (Galatians 4:7)

You have been set free in Christ. (Galatians 5:1)

You have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3)

You are chosen, holy, and blameless before God. (Ephesians 1:4)

You are redeemed and forgiven by the grace of Christ. (Ephesians 1:7)

You are seated in the heavenly places with Christ. (Ephesians 2:6)

You are God's workmanship created to produce good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

You have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)

The peace of God guards your heart and mind. (Philippians 4:7)

God supplies all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)

You have been chosen of God, and you are holy and beloved. (Colossians 3:12)

God loves you and has chosen you. (1 Thessalonians 1:4)

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)

God's thoughts for you outnumber the grains of sand. (Psalm 139:17-18)

You have been set apart. (Jeremiah 1:5)

QUIET TIME

Quiet Time is just time set aside for you to develop your friendship with God. Jesus Himself had quiet time. We believe Quiet Time is the most important part of the day. So we've built at least 30 minutes for it into the schedule, and we're providing daily Devotionals for you to use.

First Find Peace with God

When you first sit down to meet with God, it's honesty time. It's time to evaluate your relationship with Him. Are you in tight with God? Take a minute and praise Him for it. Do you feel far from God? Let Him know how you feel. Are you anxious and concerned about something? Give your worries to God. Is there sin in your life? If He's convicting you of something, deal with it together. (Check out 1 John 1:9). Get right with God. In Psalm 51 David shows us that God's heart is to restore the joy of our salvation through confession and repentance. Do whatever it takes to get right. It's impossible to move forward in your relationship with God if you're not at peace with Him.

Praise Him for Who He is; Thank Him for What He's Done

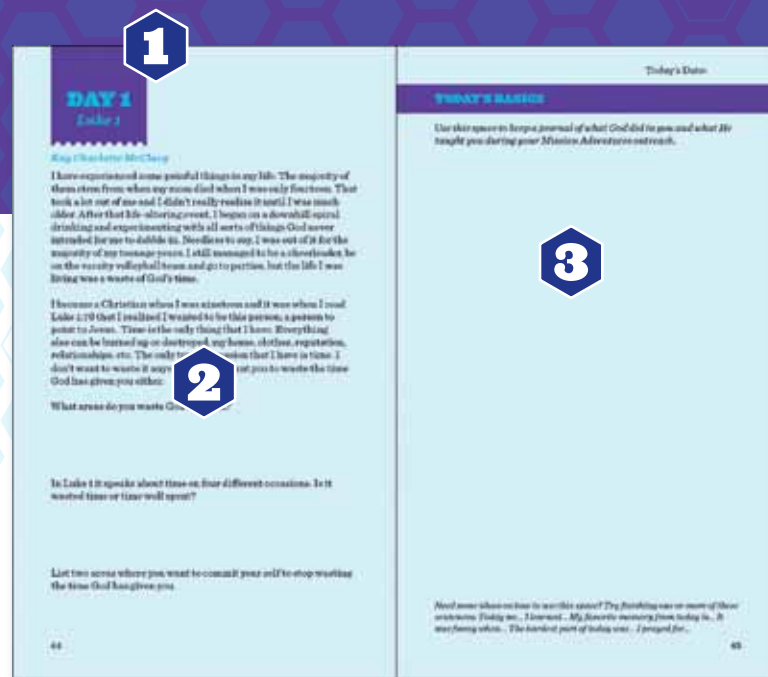
Think about the aspects of His character and nature. Worship Him for His mercy and love. Take a couple more minutes and thank Him for all He's done for you.

Read Your Devo for the Day

There are devos on the following pages, enough for one each day of your outreach—and then some. These devos are designed to help you focus on God.

Prayer Changes Things

A preacher once said, "Prayer works so well in a crisis, it's a wonder we don't implement it on a regular basis." A key to a good devotional time is prayer. Start with issues that concern you. Then pray for your family, friends, youth leaders and whoever comes to mind. Pray for people you know who aren't Christians. Ask God to reveal Himself to them. Then pray for the nations.



Close with More Praise and Thanksgiving

Thank God for your life. Thank Him for the cross, and His great mercy. It's okay if you get excited. People clap, cheer and go nuts at football games. So it should be easy to get excited about the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and His great love for us!

Each Devotion is Broken Down into Three Sections:

1. Read: This one is pretty self-explanatory. Read this chapter of the Bible.

2. Reflect: This is a short devotional thought—usually it's just a few paragraphs. It's designed to help you focus on God. Take your time reading it and ask God to speak to you through it. There's also a couple of questions here to help you think about the meaning of the chapter.

3. React: We think it's important to keep a journal of what God does during your Mission Adventures outreach. To help you out, we've added space so you can write down things that happened on your trip.

DAY 1

Luke 1

Kay Charlotte McClurg

I have experienced some painful things in my life. The majority of them stem from when my mom died when I was only fourteen. That took a lot out of me and I didn't really realize it until I was much older. After that life-altering event, I began a downhill spiral of drinking and experimenting with all sorts of things God never intended for me to dabble in. Needless to say, I was out of it for the majority of my teenage years. I still managed to be a cheerleader, be on the varsity volleyball team and go to parties, but the life I was living was a waste of God's time.

I became a Christian when I was nineteen, and when I read Luke 1:76 that I realized I wanted to be this person; a person to point to Jesus. Time is the only thing that I have. Everything else can be burned up or destroyed; my home, clothes, reputation, relationships, etc. The only true possession that I have is time. I don't want to waste it anymore. I don't want you to waste the time God has given you either.

What areas do you waste God's time in?

In Luke 1 it speaks about time on four different occasions. Is it wasted time or time well spent?

List two areas where you want to commit yourself to stop wasting the time God has given you.

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 2

Luke 2

Sheril Brasher

These few verses (4-7) which recount the birth of Jesus seem to gloss over this pinnacle event in history. I mean there are only four verses to account for His birth. There are more verses talking about the shepherds and the wise men. This is the birth of the Son of Man, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace!

Every year at our youth group's Christmas party my youth pastor would read a passage from a book that helped put these few short verses into context for us. Max Lucado wrote this amazing book called *God Came Near*. I love how he paints this amazing picture of the place that Jesus was born. He was born in a stable. As Max writes, "The stench of urine, dung and sheep reeks pungently in the air. A more lowly place of birth could not exist." This is where Jesus was born. Then He was placed in a feeding trough where I'm sure animals had recently eaten their meal.

Every time I read this, it reminds me of how much we can relate to Jesus as so many of us were born into hardships and didn't exactly have the best beginnings. Jesus overcame this start in life and we can, too.

Where were you born? What were the conditions like?

How can you relate to Jesus?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 3

Luke 3

Samuel Henderson

I grew up reading the verses in Luke 3:7-9 as though they didn't apply to me. When I read about Pharisees and Sadducees I always thought, "Good thing I'm not like them..." I even had had this attitude of, "I'm a modern-day Christian, I don't struggle with the same things the Pharisees did." That sure was prideful of me.

The Pharisees were the religious leaders of their day. To be a Pharisee meant to study God's law and set yourself apart from the world. A modern day Pharisee could easily be you, your pastor or your youth leader.

So if John had so much to say against the Pharisees, what's different about us? Maybe nothing... The religious leaders in John the Baptist's time were obsessed with religious practices and methods. Religion was like a job.

John tells the Pharisees not to feel safe in their religion because God knew the hearts of the religious leaders. They lived like believers, but their hearts were cold and prideful. That's why he points out that God can use anybody to change the world, "God can use even stones."

How are you like a Pharisee?

What does it mean to make the paths straight?

What does the fruit of a child of Abraham (or child of God) look like?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 4

Luke 4

J.P. Godin

In this scripture the devil tempts Jesus with taking the authority over all the kingdoms of the earth. This temptation was actually a trap to make Jesus worship him and not God.

Today Jesus has all authority over all kingdoms, which has been given to Him by the Father through His obedience on the cross. Now imagine what would have happen if Jesus had fallen into temptation. He would probably have never died on the cross for you and I, and our world would be very different. The devil is trying to pull us out of our love for God by offering us something else to worship. When we stop loving God with all our heart, mind, strength and soul, we also stop loving others. We cannot love others without loving God. As we fall into worshipping other things than God, we agree to love them more than God, and the consequences fall on us and on the people God wants us to love.

Is anything in your life more important than God?

What was Jesus' ultimate act of worship?

Is our worship just about music and songs?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 5

Luke 5

Beth Konrath

In this chapter, Jesus is calling James, John, Simon Peter and then Levi to be His disciples. Go back and re-read verses 11 and 28. You may notice that both of those verses say that *"They left everything and followed Him."*

They dropped everything and were willing to follow Jesus and be His disciples. Sometimes when we decide that we want to follow Jesus, we aren't willing to leave everything else behind. What if God called you to move to a country you've never heard of and leave your family behind? Would you be willing to do that? What if God told you to give away your iPod to someone? As disciples of Jesus, we need to be willing to give up anything and everything. It doesn't necessarily mean that we need to give up all our things; but it does mean we need to be in a place where we're willing to do anything for God, no matter what!

What is God speaking to you about through these verses?

What things are you having trouble giving up?

Are you willing to do anything for God?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 6

Luke 6

Lindsay Spang

The message of Jesus is a powerful one. In fact, it is the most powerful message of all time. We are sons and daughters of the Most High and can now walk in that inheritance because of what Jesus did on the cross! There is a culture that is included with being part of God's family. It is the culture of the Kingdom of God. In Luke 6, Jesus is instructing us on how to act, since we are adopted by God.

One of the major themes that Jesus shares about is loving our enemies. It is easy to justify doing wrong to someone when they first wronged us. But this is not Kingdom culture. We are called to a higher standard. In fact, Jesus tells us to go out of our way to love them. Some of the key words He uses are; *do good, bless, pray, and give*. Any ordinary person would not do these things to someone who has hurt them. Jesus explains that we are not ordinary. He tells the disciples in John about how we must love one another and that is how others will know we are followers of Him. Loving our enemies is like having a sticker stuck to our foreheads with God's signature on it. It clearly shows who we belong to.

Evaluate your own life. How are you doing? Is it evident that you love others, including your enemies?

Is there anyone that you need to go and talk to and ask for forgiveness?

What steps can you start taking today that will show that you are a child of God?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 7

Luke 7

Beth Konrath

What do you think it takes to amaze Jesus? He's the Son of God after all. He did and saw a lot of amazing things. In verse 9 the author says that Jesus was amazed at the faith of the Roman officer. Jesus saw the amount of faith that the officer had when asking Him to heal his servant. He had so much faith that he believed that if Jesus would "say the word from where you are" that his servant would be healed. Luke 7:9 says *"When Jesus heard this, He was amazed."*

There's only one other time in Scripture (that I know of) that speaks of a time that Jesus was amazed. It is in Mark 6 when Jesus is rejected in His home town of Nazareth. He saw the lack of their faith and was amazed at it. Mark 6:6 says *"He was amazed at their unbelief."*

Jesus was amazed at the huge amount of faith that one person had, and also amazed at the lack of faith another had.

Will you be like the Roman officer or the people in Jesus' home town?

What do you need more faith for?

What did you get out of reading this chapter?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 8

Luke 8

Lacey Gray

Jesus was a wanted man in every way. People longed to be near Him, hear Him speak, and have the chance to fellowship in His presence. While being thirty-three years old and only having three years of full-time ministry on earth, we can see why He was important. After all, He is the Son of God.

One story that always blesses me beyond words is the story of when Jesus is traveling to go heal a man's daughter who was dying. On His way there, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve-plus years who found no cure was among the crowd Jesus was passing through. She reached out and touched the fringe of Jesus' robe, and immediately she was healed. Jesus then asks, *"Who touched Me?"* The disciples replied, "Everyone in this crowd is pressing against You," to which Jesus replies, "No, I felt healing power leave My body. Someone touched Me". The woman who was trembling came forward and fell before Jesus and confessed her need for healing. "Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace."

Even while Jesus was on His way to heal someone else, this woman believed in His healing powers to heal her as well. Jesus was never too busy to take time to reach out. Are you?

In what way can you be aware of people around you who need a healing touch or hug?

Are you too busy to take the time to speak into someone else's life?

Are you too busy to spend time with Jesus?

Ask the Lord to reveal some answers to you.

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 9

Luke 9

Beth Konrath

In this chapter Jesus talks a lot about what it means to follow Him, as one of His disciples. Take an extra look at verses 57-62. Jesus is calling people out to follow Him. One man agreed to follow Him, wherever he was going, *but* first he said he had something to do. He wanted to get all his ducks in a line before he fully committed to doing whatever, wherever with Jesus. He was making excuses.

A lot of the time we make excuses when it comes to following Jesus. Maybe for you, you've said something like "I just want to go to a couple more parties" or "I have too much sin in my life, I'll wait until I get my life together." God wants us now, how we are, and He will transform us and help us with all our sin and junk!

Now is the time to follow Jesus! Not tomorrow, not next week! Jesus wants your all, now! It's not going to be easy or comfortable, but God is so worthy of our lives.

What excuses have you made when it comes to following Jesus?

How will you walk in the opposite spirit and not make those things stop you from doing the very thing God has called you to?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 10

Luke 10

Samuel Henderson

Now stop. What verses stuck out to you? Did you pay attention to verse 17? These men and women who followed Jesus, saw miracles happen!

What about verse 9? Did that strike something in you? *"Heal the sick"* it says! So does that verse apply to you?

How about verses 18 & 19? How do those apply to you? When is the last time you moved in the authority Jesus Christ gave to *you*?

It's interesting that when we read the Bible we pick and choose which verses we want to believe and to put into action. John 3:16, for example, is the salvation verse for so many people! Jesus died and saved us! *Great!* But it's interesting that the same Bible contains a verse like v. 19, *"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* And yet we struggle to believe that we carry any authority. Rather, we live daily in fear as a church struggling to overcome sin!

Re-read Luke 10.

Consider what each verse means, applied to you practically.

Try to walk one piece of Luke 9 and 10 out today (as they coincide and work together in context).

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 11

Luke 11

Samuel Henderson

Jesus is a real man. When asked, "How should we pray?", this is the response I read:

"Dad, You are holy, You are perfect. Dad, make earth look like heaven. Help us, and show us how to chase sickness, sorrow, pain and darkness far from this earth. Dad, give us everything we need to really be *alive* today, no matter if that's food, revelation or community around us! Thank You for forgiving me. In Your forgiveness You taught me to love. Because of Your example, I can love others in just the same way! Help us flee from anything that might take us further from You!"

You see Jesus wasn't just talking about bread when He asked our Father for bread. He meant sustenance! His kingdom and His will being done. We might imagine that God's kingdom coming might actually look a little like heaven.

How do you read vs. 2-4?

Do you mean it when you ask God to bring His Kingdom?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 12

Luke 12

Lacey Gray

Do you worry? Ok, let's be real here. We all worry at some point or another. We sometimes get so busy and stressed with the things in our lives that we forget what God has already done for us. In Luke 12 Jesus tells us not to worry. The way He says it is not a choice. When Jesus is telling us not to worry, it is a command. *"Can worrying add a single moment to your life? And if worry cannot accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?"*

When we worry instead of trusting God to provide for our needs, we are not acknowledging He is enough, or big enough to provide for us. This in turn steals life, joy and contentment in our hearts. What college I am going to attend after high-school? What will happen to my family now that my dad lost his job? What if I don't pass this class? These are just some examples of things we worry about everyday. I have worried a lot about all kinds of things in my life. But God has never let me down, and shows me time and time again that He is taking care of me. I just need to remember He sees what I need and He will provide. Always remember that the One who made the universe and created every hair on your head knows what you need! Now find comfort in this truth!

What things do you worry about?

What areas of your life do you need to learn to trust God in? (ie: finances, future, relationships, school, health, etc.)

Ask the Lord to remind you of His love for you and write down a specific time you saw Him provide for your needs. (ie: Gave you a job when you needed one, provided something you needed, etc.) Look back on this time to remember what He has done!

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 13

Luke 13

Anonymous

I often hear people say, "I'm not into religion." I love that thought.

I, myself, find it easy to look at what Christians do daily, and think, "Why do we do that?" When people joke about how weird it is to drink grape juice and eat a small cracker in church (communion Sunday), I laugh with them. When someone thinks it's silly to pray before dinner, I usually agree, but pray anyway.

When I read Luke 13, something stands out to me. I realize that all of my religious fervor and religious duties become very distant and far away from who Jesus was.

Jesus wasn't about observing the "Sabbath". He was worried about the sick girl (v.15). Jesus wasn't afraid of losing His life to a violent ruler. He wanted to reach the city (v. 32)!

As much as I understand that prayer before dinner keeps me thankful all the time, I understand that Christianity is actually about the fruit of my life. As much as I understand that Communion on the first Sunday of the month is about accepting Christ's sacrifice (daily acknowledging it), I understand that Christ sets an example of good fruit coming forth from those who follow Him!

What does it truly mean to live like Christ?

How have you been too religious in your walk with God and less focused on having a relationship with Him?

What standards or examples does Jesus set in Luke 13 for us to live out?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 14

Luke 14

Beth Konrath

Have you read verse 26 before and been confused? Jesus is telling us we're supposed to hate our parents? Well, not quite. The key words in that verse are "in comparison." Our love for God should be so big and so great, that when we look at our love for our parents, it's not even comparable! We are called to love our parents, no matter what, but above *all* things, we're called to love God.

God shouldn't just be Number One in our lives, but He should be everything, our all! Sometimes we put other things or people above or before God. Maybe you love God, but you love your boyfriend/girlfriend just as much. When you know you should spend time with Jesus, you always choose to hang out with your friends. Don't get me wrong, there isn't anything wrong with hanging out with friends. But when we choose others things over God, that's when we need to re-evaluate things.

What are some things/people you've put above God in your life?

What do you want to work on in your walk with God to make sure He's above everything else?

How will you make God your Number One where you haven't in the past?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 15

Luke 15

Samuel Henderson

Read verses 11-32

You've read the parable of the lost son in many ways. Maybe you've heard it taught in many ways. What's the main focus of the story? Usually the lost son, right? What about the eldest son? The one who never strayed from his father? Why do you think that story is in there?

Growing up I didn't really have much desire to stray away from my family or parents. Even in my youth I often felt very tight and close with God, so I never really had a "coming home" experience with Jesus. I got comfortable with this though, and with time, I forgot that He loved me as much as a new believer.

After serving in missions for four years, I realized one day that I was like the eldest brother in this parable. Often I would work for Dad. Often I would serve and build Dad's kingdom. I had the fattened calf... fattened some more. I saw the beautiful cloak and I knew about the ring Dad wanted to give me. I knew how awesome *my Dad* was, but I was so busy taking care of Dad's land and his business, that I never asked Him to throw a party for me. Even more, I lived with Him and I felt distant from Him.

"My Son," the Father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours..." Ask yourself, Are you living like the jealous older brother?

Are you living with God but not in relationship with God?

Have you ever been jealous that God blessed someone else? If so, ask God to reveal why that is!

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 16

Luke 16

Beth Konrath

Jesus tells us that if we are faithful and honest in little things, we will be faithful in the large ones. This also is the same with honesty. God cares about all things, it doesn't matter the level of importance. If we don't show that we're faithful and honest in the littlest of things, how can we be entrusted to be honest and faithful in larger things?

Perhaps you have a friend that borrows \$10 from you, and they assured you that they would pay you back. Months and months have gone by, and you still haven't seen your \$10. Do you think this would make it hard for you to let them borrow your computer?

Maybe you told a friend who you have a crush on, and they promised not to tell anyone. But somehow a few days later everyone at school knows. Do you think this would make it hard for you to tell them another secret about how you're struggling with addiction?

It's so important to be faithful and honest in the little things to show that we can be trustworthy with other things.

Where in your life have you not been faithful (in little and large things)?

Where in your life have you not been honest (in little and large things)?

How do you want to change and be honest and faithful in all areas of life?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 17

Luke 17

Brian Carlton

Our relationship with Christ is not a vending machine. Step 1: Put in some faith. Step 2: Get what you want. Step 3: Repeat as desired—after all, it's all about you, right?

If we're not careful, that's exactly how we'll treat it. We will begin to judge God's character based on the expectation of getting because we give. But faith is necessary in the life of a Christ follower...regardless of the outcome.

Many times, we focus on the mustard seed sized faith in this story—getting down on ourselves for how small our faith is, and missing the bigger picture Jesus is painting. We are called to serve the Master, expecting nothing in return. And that faith... the faith that can tell the tree to be uprooted, becomes stronger when we realize that we deserve nothing in return. God, being the loving Father He is, wants to bless us. But faith for the sake of personal gain is not real faith at all.

Faith in action is characterized by a servant lifestyle for the glory of God, regardless of the outcome in our own lives. So, how's your faith today?

Have you ever prayed for something in faith, didn't get it, and then wonder if God was even listening? How did that make you feel?

Why should we serve God, regardless of what we get out of it?

What areas in your life are you not living out your faith?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 18

Luke 18

Anonymous

Let's take a closer look at another story where Jesus heals someone. In verse 35, we read about a man who was blind and was yelling out to Jesus as He passed by. People tried to hush the blind beggar as he cried out asking Jesus to heal him.

The blind beggar didn't care what others were saying. He was willing to go against what others were saying. He wanted to be healed badly, and he knew Jesus was all into doing that. He was willing to do whatever it took to talk with Jesus.

Because of the blind man's persistence and faith, Jesus heard his cries. Jesus responded and the man was healed! Can you imagine the excitement the once blind man felt? He can see!!

What is God speaking to you about through this passage, and chapter?

What are some things people have said to you that you've cared too much about? (ie: sharing Jesus, your looks, people's opinions, etc.)

How will you be like the beggar that was once blind?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 19

Luke 19

Jackie Doyle

We all have heard the story of Zacchaeus, but have you ever really stopped and thought about it? Have you ever thought about the fact that Zac was not held back from meeting Jesus by being short? I mean, being short is not something you can change about yourself. It was a permanent fixture of Zac and yet he overcame this difficulty. He didn't make excuses to meet Jesus.

But the most amazing thing is the reason *why* Zac couldn't see Jesus... because Jesus was *one* of the crowd. Think about how weird that is these days. Celebrities today get special privileges. Like the back door to get out of the restaurant or a limo to get to an event. And even if you catch a celebrity in a crowd, they usually don't enjoy it. They are not *one of us*.

Jesus hung out with the crowd and blended in as one of us. He doesn't expect the special back door or a limo. Later on in the chapter He enters a city on a donkey. Not exactly a limo.

What kind of permanent fixture do you have to overcome in your life? (ie: addiction in the family, death of a loved one, divorce, etc.)

So where does that leave us? Should we be with the crowd? Should we be one of them?

Where are you in the crowd? What will you do to get a glimpse of Jesus? How desperate are you for Jesus?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 20

Luke 20

Anonymous

Have you ever prayed and asked God to reveal the sin that is in your life? So often I forget to do this; to ask God to show me the things that do not line up with who I was created to be.

Jesus used a parable to show the teachers of religious law and the leading priests the sin in their lives. When they realized that Jesus was saying that they were the wicked farmers, they got ticked!

We can respond many different ways when God highlights something in our life that we need to work on. We can ignore what God is telling us. We can get mad at the truth and try to hurt the truth-teller (pastor, friends, etc.). Or, we can get convicted and want to change.

How did the teachers of religious law and the leading priests respond?

Ask God to reveal any sin that is in your life.

How will you respond to what God is revealing to you?

Today's Date:

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 21

Luke 21

Brian Carlton

If you had a hundred dollars in your pocket and someone was hungry, buying them a meal may not be a big deal. But what if all you had was five dollars? What if it was your last five dollars? What would you do?

In Luke 21:1-4 Jesus is watching those coming into the Temple to bring their offerings. Paying attention to both the rich and the poor, he says, *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has."*

When we have enough to meet our own needs, it's easy to hold back on the amount we give. But God calls us to give generously, joyfully, until it hurts.

So today, think about your finances, your time, and your talent. Are you giving greatly so that others may know Christ, or just enough to get noticed?

Why is the widow's sacrifice greater than that of the rich?

Does this mean that if you are wealthy, and don't give everything, you are being disobedient to God? Explain.

Using what God has given you today, how can you make a difference in the lives of others?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 22

Luke 22

Beth Konrath

It's sad when I think about Peter's life. He was one of Jesus' disciples, and also known for denying Jesus three times. And Jesus even predicted that Peter would deny Him three times!

Judas was also one of Jesus' disciples, and known for being the one that betrayed Jesus for money. He basically turned Jesus over to the leading priests, the captains of the Temple guard, and the elders.

In our own lives, we are often just like Peter and Judas. We deny knowing Christ and that we are Christians, in fear of what others might say or think about us. We are often tempted by money to do things that are against what God has for us.

How have you been like Peter?

How have you been like Judas?

How will you change?

Today's Date:

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 23*Luke 23***Anonymous**

Growing up, I didn't understand why Jesus died on the cross. I just thought He was being nice, since He was God and all, and dying for us. But I didn't understand that Christ actually accomplished something on the cross. It was more than just a nice gesture.

Verse 45 says *"the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle."* Because of Christ's death and resurrection, there's nothing blocking us from being in God's presence. We don't have to go to a temple or a church to meet with God. We can meet with God whenever, wherever we want to. Christ is our bridge to God.

Before Christ died, people would have to make sacrifices in order to be forgiven for their sins. Christ was the perfect sacrifice, meaning we don't have to bring animals and grains to the Temple to receive forgiveness. We can simply ask for forgiveness!

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for what was accomplished on the cross.

What has God been speaking to you through this chapter?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 24

Luke 24

Andrea Walston

The way that Jesus interacts with two of His disciples in verses 13-34 is very similar to how He interacts with us today. Take a closer look and re-read these verses.

Jesus asked questions He already knew the answers to (v. 17 & 19). Jesus asks questions because He wants us to talk with Him, and because He wants us to think about things that happened and process it, instead of Him just telling us.

He was interested in what they were talking about (v. 17). God takes interest in the things that interest us.

Jesus listened to what His disciples were saying (v. 19-24). God listens to us as we cry out to Him and walk in relationship with Him.

He corrected and taught them scripture (v. 25-27). God speaks to us through His Word as we read it, teaching us more about who He is.

Jesus waits for the disciples to invite Him over (v. 28-29). God is a gentleman and does not force Himself upon us. We have free will to follow Him or not.

He revealed Himself to them after He broke the bread (v. 30-31). God reveals Himself to us because of what was accomplished on the cross.

Jesus hung out with them. Jesus wants to hang out with us too, even when we're just walking or eating!

What is God speaking to you about through this passage?

Do you feel like it's possible to hang out with God? How so or how not?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 25

1 John 1

Rebekah Gervasi

In the first four verses the writer, John, talks about his joy in the Lord. He has the reality of the incarnation. Jesus Christ became man, limiting and separating Himself from God, and John saw, touched and heard Him. John is writing this letter, *"...so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."* The sharing of His joy shares the truth with others and brings fellowship with Him and God.

John goes on to say that when we have fellowship with God we should have moral likeness. That is that light expels darkness. The more we fellowship with God, the more we should be like Him and full of light, not darkness, for *"God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all."*

Are you a source of truth for others? Do your friends know of the joy you have in Him?

Is your moral likeness with God visible to others? Do you choose to stay in the light no matter where you are?

How can you become more like God?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 26*1 John 2**Tim Walter*

I love this year's theme "The Basics". I love it for its simplicity, and its power. There is power in simplicity. As I was reading 1 John 2, the verse that really struck home for me was verse 3. Read it and think about this year's theme, and the phrase, "There is power in simplicity." How do we know if we love God? We obey His commandments. So simple, so pure. His commands are not burdensome, so why do we over complicate them?

What in your life needs to be simplified?

Do you feel Jesus' commands are simple? Why or why not?

Think of the things that make you happy and see how many of them really are simple things.

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 27

1 John 3

Dave DuBrall

Love is a choice. Love is not something you can fall in and out of. Love is not only something you can feel. It's something you choose. Did you know that a dolphin has to make the choice to breathe? It isn't something it automatically does, unlike us. Verse 16 says "*We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us.*" Jesus chose to lay down his life for us. He chose to give up His life so that we could have life to the fullest. He did this even though He knew that many people would reject and deny Him. Verse 18 says "*...Let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in love.*"

Love is a choice. Choose love and share it! That is what Christ did! How are you going to choose love?

What are three ways you going to show the love of Jesus today?

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 28

1 John 4

Today's Date:

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Anonymous

Verse 4 says, *"But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the Spirit who lives in the world."*

I live in a city that is famous. It's known for being a place where God is forgotten. People say that He does not belong in this city, and that this is Satan's city. I choose to believe otherwise.

In Las Vegas, sin is easily available wherever you go. It almost feels like you can't get away from it. People often ask why I live in Vegas and why I want share the gospel to these people that are sinning against Him in such a public way.

Many Christians are afraid to even step foot on the Strip. It's "too sinful". I'm not exactly sure why people feel this way. Maybe it's because they are afraid they will fall into sin, or they think others might look down upon them for associating with such sinners.

If this verse were re-written for Las Vegas, it would be something like, "The Spirit of God who lives inside of you is greater than the spirits of darkness on the Strip. I have given you authority and called you to witness to all. Fear not, for I am with you."

In what areas of your life have you let fear stop you from doing something God has called you to do?

Do you believe this verse is true for you?

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

DAY 29

1 John 5

Mike Gervasi

So you are a child of God—awesome! But now what?

You have gone through a Mission Adventures trip and it was amazing. You have learned and done incredible things! You have been challenged and grown. But what's next?

You have the world ahead of you. You can do almost anything. Some choices are as black and white as, good vs. evil, but most will be, good vs. best. Those are the hard ones. Satan will try to steal, kill and destroy! And most of the time, he does it one small thing at a time.

An idol is anything that you enjoy more than God.

If you only come away with one thing from this experience... *obey God!* God is wise. He loves to talk to you. The best way to know what He is saying is the Bible. Run everything through the context of the Bible. With that, it is extremely hard to go wrong!

What is God telling you your next step is?

Are you obeying God with your whole life? If not, what ways aren't you?

What are some idols in your life that is keeping you from obeying God with your whole life?

Today's Date:

TODAY'S BASICS

Use this space to keep a journal of what God did in you and what He taught you during your Mission Adventures outreach.

Need some ideas on how to use this space? Try finishing one or more of these sentences: Today we... I learned... My favorite memory from today is... It was funny when... The hardest part of today was... I prayed for...

Measures & Conversions

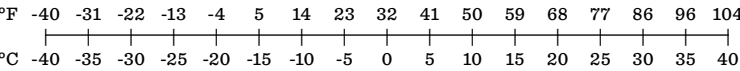
Length

12 inches = 1 foot
3 feet = 1 yard
220 yards = 1 furlong
5,280 feet = 1 mile
6,076 feet = 1 nautical mile
1 inch = 2.54 cent.
1 centimeter = .3937 inch
1 mile = 1.6093 km
1 kilometer = .6214 mile
1 mile = .868976 nm
1 nautical mile = 1.15 miles
1 nautical mile = 1.8519 km
1 kilometer = .54 naut. mile

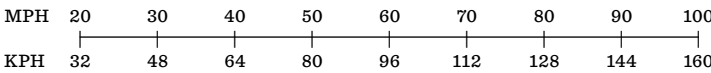
Capacity

16 ounces = 1 pint
20 ounces = 1 Imperial pint
2.4019 cups = 1 pint
2 pints = 1 quart
4 quarts = 1 gallon
1 Imperial gal. = 1.2009 gallons
1 quart = .9465 liter
1.0567 quart = 1 liter
1 gallon = 3.7854 liters
.2642 gallon = 1 liter

Temperature



Speed



Area

1 square foot = 144 sq. inches
1 square yard = 9 square feet
1 acre = 4,840 sq. yds.
1 square mile = 640 acres
1 square inch = 6.4516 sq. cm
1 square cm = .155 sq. inch
1 acre = .4047 hectare
1 hectare = 2.471 acres
1 square mile = 2.59 sq. km
1 square km = .3861 sq. mile

Volume

1 cubic foot = 1,728 cu. in.
1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet
1 cubic inch = 16.387 cu. cm
1 cubic cm = .0610 cu. inch
1 cubic yard = .7646 cu. m
1 cubic meter = 1.3080 cu. yds.

Weight

437.5 grains = 1 ounce
480 grains = 1 troy ounce
16 drams = 1 ounce
16 ounces = 1 pound
14 pounds = 1 stone
2,000 pounds = 1 ton
2.2046 pounds = 1 kilogram
.4536 kilogram = 1 pound
28.3495 grams = 1 ounce
.03527 ounce = 1 gram

International Sizes

Men

Shirts	USA	14	14½	15½	16½	17½	18½
GB	14	14½	15½	16½	17½	18½	
D	38	40	42	44	46	48	
F	40	42	44	46	48	50	
I	44	46	48	50	52	54	
Suits/Coats	USA	36	38	40	42	44	46
GB	36	38	40	42	44	46	
D	38	40	42	44	46	48	
F	40	42	44	46	48	50	
I	44	46	48	50	52	54	
Shoes	USA	7-7½	8	9	10	11	12
GB	6	7	8	9	10	11	
D	40	41	42	43	44	45	
F	40	41	42	43	44	45	
I	40	41	42	43	44	45	

Women

Blouses	USA	32	34	36	38	40	42
GB	6	8	10	12	14	16	
D	32	34	36	38	40	42	
F	34	36	38	40	42	44	
I	38	40	42	44	46	48	
Dresses/Suits	USA	8	10	12	14	16	17
GB	6	8	10	12	14	16	
D	32	34	36	38	40	42	
F	34	36	38	40	42	44	
I	38	40	42	44	46	48	
Shoes	USA	4½	5½	6½	7½	8½	9½
GB	3	4	5	6	7	8	
D	36	37	38	39	40	41	
F	35	36	37	38	39	40	
I	36	37	38	39	40	41	

MISSION ADVENTURES

OUTREACH FOR GROUPS



YOUTH
WITH A
MISSION

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS

WHERE TO NEXT?

VISIT **MissionAdventures.net**
TO PLAN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE
HUNDREDS OF OPPORTUNITIES
AROUND THE WORLD



The Mission Adventures web site is packed with features to help you find the right outreach experience for your group.

- **Outreach Destinations**
- **YWAM Centers that Host Mission Adventures**
- **Fresh News from the Field**
- **Fundraising Tips**
- **Free Stuff & More!**

www.missionadventures.net

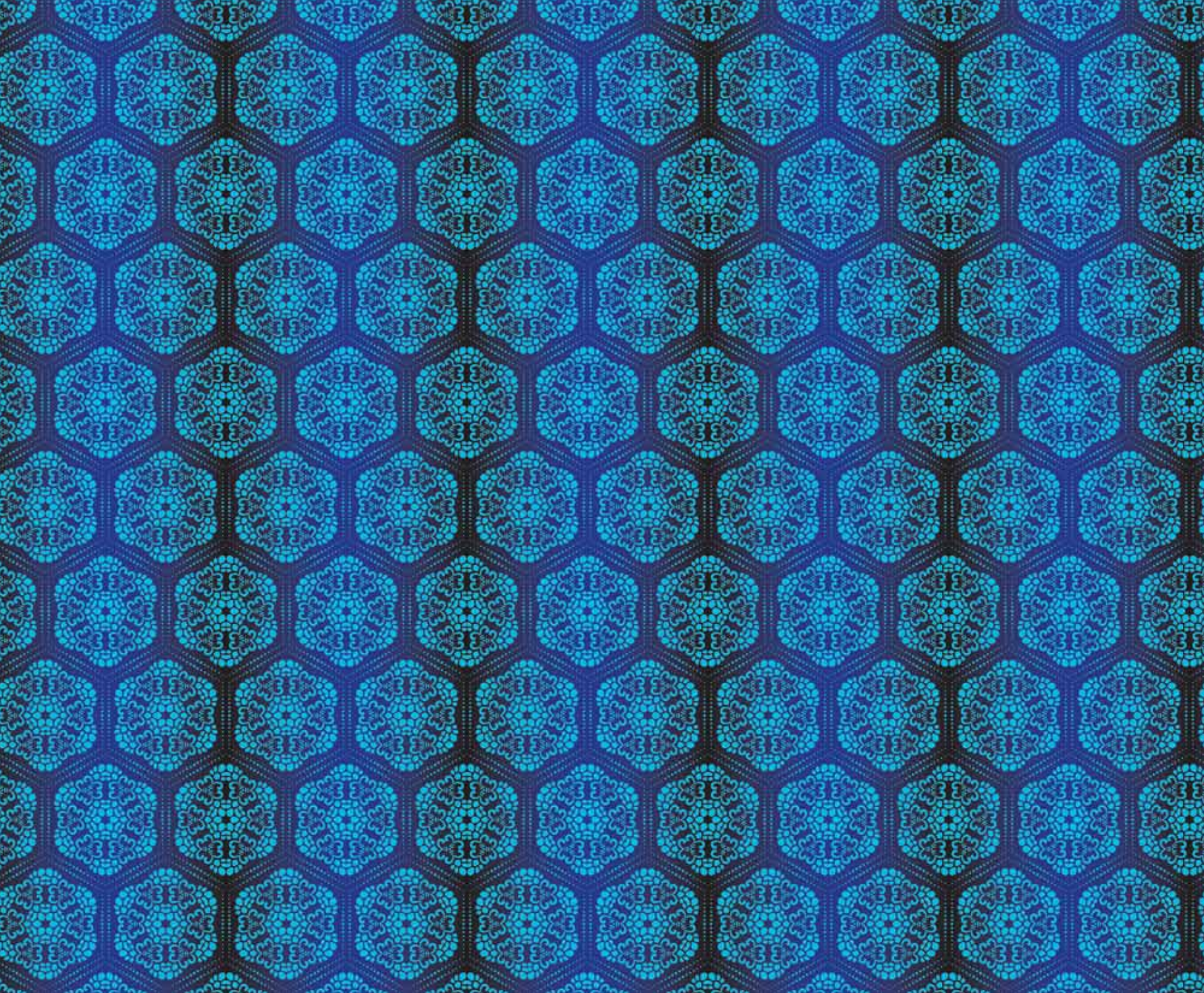
WHY YWAM?

TRAINING
FOR YOU & YOUR TEAM

SERVICE
WE'LL DO THE WORK...

GROWTH
YOUR KIDS WILL GROW

VALUE
MORE FOR YOUR \$\$





MISSION ADVENTURES

YOUTH WITH A MISSION