

# WONDER 2015

## SMALL GROUP MATERIAL

### ADULT LEADERS:

We are praying for you as you prepare for small group time at camp. The idea of wonder is for you and your students to step back and really look at the story of God and be in awe of his love for you. This is a study version of the theme. Please take a look at this before you come to camp, especially if are leading your students during the small group time. It may be hard to wrap your mind around the theme if the first time you see the small group questions is at camp. The sections called **REFLECTION** are the actual questions we will use in the camp book this summer. We are praying that this time in the Word is unifying and challenging for your group. We long for everyone to leave camp knowing more about themselves, your church, and ultimately Jesus.

### SUNDAY

#### Let there be light: Genesis 1:1-3, John 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth— <sup>2</sup>the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God’s wind swept over the waters— <sup>3</sup>God said, “Let there be light.” And so light appeared. Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The Word was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being <sup>4</sup>through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light. John 1:1-5

**Main Idea:** God’s first words were “let there be light.” Light expels darkness and gives life and meaning to all of us.

#### Scripture Context:

##### *Genesis 1*

The Bible opens with wonder. There is a majestic description of how God first created the heavens and the earth and then how he ordered it so that it would become His dwelling place. There are six work days explained and then a day of rest on the seventh. Each work day begins the same way “and God said,” and then closes with “and there was evening and there was morning.” Genesis 1:1 establishes that God is the Creator of all things, then He creates things in order. The first words God speaks in all of eternity is “Let there be light.” He takes the absolute darkness and transforms everything with His light. He is the originator of light; before the sun, God’s light transformed the world.

##### *John 1*

John is considered by most to be the youngest disciple, maybe even a teenager when he started following Jesus. Reading his Gospel with this in mind, helps the reader how a young man viewed Jesus. He is called the beloved disciple, and Jesus allowed John into a small circle to learn and grow. John is also the disciple that Jesus spoke to from the cross to take care of Mary, Jesus’ mother. John 1 is the prologue to his gospel where he presents Jesus as the eternal, preexistent, and incarnate Word.

#### Scripture Breakdown:

##### *Genesis 1:1*

1. ***In the beginning.*** This is the first event. God created matter, space and time out of nothing. This is confirmed in the New Testament (Hebrews 11:3, Revelation 4:11).
2. ***God.*** The Hebrew word here is *Elohim* which is plural (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit), but the word create (*bara*) is singular, showing God's oneness. The word create shows his majesty and power over all creation.
3. ***Heavens and the earth.*** Literally means everything. The effect of using these words to begin scripture shows God's wisdom, sovereign power, and majesty as the creator of all things that exist.

#### *Genesis 1:2*

1. ***It was dark over the deep sea.*** This points to the absence of light. Before God started to create there was no light. This was only transformed when God started to move.

#### *Genesis 1:3*

1. ***God said.*** This conveys God's absolute power by conveying that all He had to do was speak.
2. ***Let there be light.*** Light is the first of God's creative works, which God speaks into existence.

#### *John 1:1-2*

1. ***In the beginning was the Word.*** This echoes the opening phrase of the Bible in Genesis. John identifies the Word as Jesus in verse 14, but he locates Jesus' existence in eternity past with God. The Greek word for word is *logos* and conveys the notion of divine self-expression (God said) and has infinite power to create. John uses *logos* to point to Jesus being one with God. When God speaks things come into being, and by speech he personally relates to people.
2. ***And the Word was with God and the Word was God.*** Jesus had a relationship with God and is God, meaning that he created the universe "in the beginning." This sets up the doctrine of the Trinity: one true God consists of more than one person, they relate to each other, and they have always existed.

#### *John 1: 3*

1. ***Everything.*** Includes the entire universe. Nothing has existed eternally except God.
2. ***Through the Word.*** Meaning Jesus was not created, he has existed eternally. God carried his creative works through the activity of Jesus (1 Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2).

#### *John 1: 4-5*

1. ***Life, light, and darkness.*** These words continue to point to Genesis. Jesus is the light that breaks the absolute darkness. His light shows the very presence of God. The light cannot be overcome by darkness.

#### **Reflection:**

1. Wonder is defined by awe and amazement. What amazes you?
2. Why is it a big deal that God's first words were "let there be light?" What significance does that have on our understanding of God?
3. If light brings light to all things, that means God is concerned about life. How does this affect the way we serve others this week?
4. In John 1 the Word refers to Jesus. Jesus was present during the Genesis 1 passage according to this passage. Jesus is life and light for all people and we are invited into relationship with him, the eternal life and light. How can you reflect the light of Jesus this week? Be specific.

## MONDAY

### Created: Acts 17: 22-28

<sup>22</sup> Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, “People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. <sup>23</sup> As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown God.’ What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn’t live in temples made with human hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn’t far away from any of us. <sup>28</sup> In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’ Acts 17:22-28

**Main Idea:** God’s created the nations to seek and worship Him.

### Scripture Context:

*Acts*

Acts follows the story of Jesus or the Gospels by explaining how salvation is now offered to all people. The message of Jesus was taken from Jerusalem (Jews) to Rome (Gentiles). The main characters in this book are Peter and Paul. Peter spoke the Gospels to the Jews and Paul to the Gentiles. There are several important speeches given to either call people to belief and/or defend the Christian mission.

*Acts 17*

Paul and Silas are the main characters in this passage. The first part of the chapter talks about them traveling from Philippi to Thessalonica, the capital of Macedonia. Paul always began his ministry in a new city by teaching in the synagogues to the Jews. Paul was an academic, and was a Jew. He was able to speak to the Jews with authority and understanding of the Jewish scriptures. The Jews in Thessalonica did not want to hear what he had to say about Jesus, so they left and went to Berea. The Jews in Berea were open to Paul’s teachings and search scripture for themselves to see if what he was saying was true. Many of them believed, but the Jews in Thessalonica were angry and came to Berea to start trouble. Paul left Berea for Athens but Silas and Timothy stayed.

When he arrived in Athens he was struck by how many idols were in the city. He spoke in the synagogues and in the marketplaces. The people of Athens were so concerned with pleasing every god to receive maximum blessing, so they were willing to hear what Paul had to say about the resurrected Jesus. Paul spoke to them using their own need to please every god by bringing up their idol that was titled “unknown god.” He also used their philosophy in a respectable way. He mentions that the god that they do not know is the only God. Some mocked him and some believed.

### Scripture Breakdown:

*Acts 17:22*

1. **Religious.** This could be taken in one of two ways, either positively (pious) or negatively (superstitious).

*Acts 17:23*

1. **To the unknown god.** Paul mentions this to show them they are not fully satisfied with the hundreds of gods they are serving. They know there is something more.

*Acts: 17: 24-25*

1. **God who made the world and everything in it.** This is Paul’s way of letting them know that the God he serves created everything. This takes away all of the value of the lesser gods they are serving.

2. **Does not live in temples made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands.** He is mentioning their gods here. The true God is not an idol in a temple and is not served by sacrifices brought to the temple. This is true of current Christianity as well. The true God does not live at the church and does not need humans to serve Him. He desires an everyday relationship, not an idol and servant relationship.

Acts 17:26

1. **One person. Refers to Adam and how we are all unified in our heritage.** This also rules out any kind of racism, since the various ethnic groups all come from one person.
2. **Having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands.** This indicates God's sovereignty over history and nations.

Acts 17:27

1. **The would seek him (or feel their way towards him). Even perhaps reach out to him and find him.** This implies the kind of groping around in darkness, without really knowing how to find God, though they hoped they would.
2. **God isn't far away from any of us.** God hears our prayers and knows our hearts. Paul is inviting them here, he is saying there is a God to find and he is not far way.

Acts 17:28

1. **In God we live, move, and exist.** Instead of quoting the Old Testament, Paul quotes Greek writers who would be familiar to his audience. This quote comes from a hymn to Zeus by Epimenides of Crete. He is not saying that they should worship Zeus, but instead the God he is talking about.
2. **We are his offspring.** Comes from a poem Phenomena by the Stoic poet Aratus.

### Reflection:

1. If could invent or create something, what would it be?
2. Acts 17 gives a scene of Paul talking to the Romans in Athens about their idols that they call gods. He noticed they had an idol called "unknown", because they were afraid that they were missing something. Do you think we create idols because we feel like we are missing something? Give examples.
3. The nations were made to seek God and reach out to him, not to serve him. He desires relationship not slaves. How does this change how we relate to God?
4. There are have around 108 billion people on earth and we are all searching for something bigger than us. God designed each of us for relationship with him and with each other. Think about this: your church brought anywhere from 8-30 people, there are around 50 people in camp, there will be 1300 people come to a CCC camp this summer, and there have been over 28,000 people attend CCC in the past 28 years. We are all connected, and this is just part of it. Take time to pray for everyone around you at camp and around the world.

## TUESDAY

### Merry Christmas! Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.<sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled.<sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. <sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." <sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." <sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told. Luke 2:1-20

**Main Idea:** God with us, the light of the world, the Word came to bring hope and restoration to the world.

#### Scripture Context:

##### *Luke*

Luke was not one of the twelve disciples. He was a doctor and from the second generation of the early church. He was a very thorough writer and recorded events in much detail. He is also the author of Acts, in which he traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys. Some speculation is that he was Paul's physician. The purpose of both his Gospel and Acts was to tell the story of how the gospel spread to the ends of the earth, to both the Jews and the Gentiles. Because he was not an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry it is thought that he spent time with Mark when writing the Gospel of Luke. He write to reassure his readers that Jesus is the Savior of the world and we are called to proclaim the Good News.

#### Scripture Breakdown:

##### *Luke 2:1-5*

1. **Caesar Augustus declared.** Caesar Augustus reigned 31 B.C.-A.D. 14. He made a decree that everyone in the known world under his rule needed to be enrolled in the tax list and needed to be counted.
2. **Bethlehem.** Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth but his ancestors came from Bethlehem so they had to travel. This fulfilled the prophesy in Micah 5:2 that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

##### *Luke 2:6-7*

1. **She gave birth to her firstborn child.** The greatest miracle in the history of the world, the eternal Son of God being born as a man, happens quietly in a stable in an obscure village in Judea.
2. **Manger.** Stone animal feeding trough.

##### *Luke 2:8-14*

1. **The Lord's glory shone around them.** The bright light that surrounds the shepherds was God himself. The eternal light.

2. **Savior...Christ the Lord.** These are titles given to Jesus. Christ is the Greek word for the Hebrew Messiah. This then means that Jesus is the Messiah as well as the Lord God himself.
3. **Assembly of the heavenly forces.** Thousands of angels.

*Luke 2:15-20*

1. **Glorifying and praising.** When they saw him they worshiped and after they left they continued to worship.

#### **Reflection:**

1. What is your favorite Christmas memory?
2. The light of the world came as a baby in a feed trough, in a nowhere town. Why do you think God chose to do it this way?
3. Mary was a teenaged girl that was asked to carry and raise God. How would you have reacted to that calling?
4. God came to earth to restore creation. Jesus did this through teaching and being in relationship with the people around him. Why is it important to you that Jesus came as a human?

## WEDNESDAY

### Storms: Matthew 8:22-27

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> A huge storm arose on the lake so that waves were sloshing over the boat. But Jesus was asleep. <sup>25</sup> They came and woke him, saying, “Lord, rescue us! We’re going to drown!” <sup>26</sup> He said to them, “Why are you afraid, you people of weak faith?” Then he got up and gave orders to the winds and the lake, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> The people were amazed and said, “What kind of person is this? Even the winds and the lake obey him!” Matthew 8:23-27

**Main Idea:** Jesus commands the light to shine but he also controls the darkness and the storms.

### Scripture Context:

#### Matthew 8

Matthew was one of the original 12 disciples, so his account is an eyewitness one. He was called to be a disciple when he was working as a tax collector for Herod. Because of where he was called it is thought that he was taxing the fisherman on the Sea of Galilee (which would mean he was collecting taxes from people like Peter). The purpose of his Gospel was to show the Jews that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah, from the line of David, as well as proclaim the good news to the Gentiles. Chapter 8 specifically shows Jesus’ authoritative power through healing, discipleship, and overpowering Satan’s strongholds.

### Scripture Breakdown:

#### Mark 8:23-24

1. **Huge storm.** The Greek word used (*seismos*) means violent shaking, earthquake. The winds created large waves that shook the boat, which would have been a small wooden fishing boat.

#### Mark 8:25-26

1. **Weak faith.** The Greek word *oligopistos* is not an absence of faith but ineffective faith.
2. **Gave orders to the wind and the lake.** Jesus is able to command even the forces of nature. He has sovereign control of the natural world and the darkness.

#### Mark 8:27

1. **Amazed.** The Greek word is *thaumazō*, which can also be translated to wonder. Through their wonder they came to understand Jesus’ identity.

### Reflection:

1. Have you ever been in a bad storm? Talk about what that was like.
2. We’ve talked about Jesus being in control of the light but here we see him control darkness. Why do you think that is important?
3. Have you ever been so scared that the first thing you said is “God rescue me?” Do you think the disciples were mad that Jesus was asleep and didn’t stop the storm before it got bad? Have you ever felt that way?
4. When Jesus speaks the storm stops! If we know he is that powerful, why do we doubt him sometimes?

## THURSDAY

### Dawn to Dusk: Matthew 27: 32-54

<sup>32</sup> As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, <sup>34</sup> they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn't want to drink it. <sup>35</sup> After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. <sup>36</sup> They sat there, guarding him. <sup>37</sup> They placed above his head the charge against him. It read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who were walking by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way, the chief priests, along with the legal experts and the elders, were making fun of him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others, but he can't save himself. He's the king of Israel, so let him come down from the cross now. Then we'll believe in him." <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God, so let God deliver him now if he wants to. He said, "I'm God's Son." <sup>44</sup> The outlaws who were crucified with him insulted him in the same way. <sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. <sup>46</sup> At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," which means, "My God, my God, why have you left me?" <sup>47</sup> After hearing him, some standing there said, "He's calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup> One of them ran over, took a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the rest of them said, "Let's see if Elijah will come and save him." <sup>50</sup> Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died. <sup>51</sup> Look, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, <sup>52</sup> and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised. <sup>53</sup> After Jesus' resurrection they came out of their graves and went into the holy city where they appeared to many people. <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what had just happened, they were filled with awe and said, "This was certainly God's Son." Matthew 27:32-54

**Main Idea:** Jesus is not only the light that overcomes the darkness; he also overcame death and hell.

### Scripture Context:

*Matthew 27*

In the previous chapters, Matthew has narrated the events leading to Jesus' death: 1) Passover and the Lord's Supper; 2) Gethsemane, Jesus' arrest, trials, and conviction; 3) Jesus' flogging. Now we read about his crucifixion, death, and later his burial. The trial of Jesus by the Jewish Sanhedrin is explained as well as Peter's denials, then Jesus is given to Pilate. The beginning of chapter 27 also shows Judas' remorse and suicide.

### Scripture Breakdown:

*Matthew 27:32-38*

1. **Man from Cyrene.** Cyrene was region in North Africa with a large Jewish population. Simon likely had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover.
2. **Carry his cross.** Jesus was severely weakened from the beating and the loss of blood. The cross weighed around 30-40 pounds. The skin and muscles of his back would have been severely lacerated, and he could have suffered severe injury to his internal organs, therefore he would not have been able to carry the cross. The Greek word for cross (*stauros*) means sharpened pole and then they added the crux or the cross bar to be used for crucifixion.
3. **Golgotha.** Means skull. It could have been given that name because it was the place of execution, or because the area had a number of tombs, or possibly because the site resembled a skull.
4. **Crucified him.** Crucifixion was widely practiced by the Romans, and the early Jewish historian Josephus mentions thousands of people crucified in the first-century. Modern medical explanations for the cause of death on a cross have focused on either asphyxiation or shock. It is widely believed to be the worst form of execution, due to the excruciating pain and public shame. Hanging suspended by one's



arms eventually caused great difficulty in breathing, which could be alleviated only by pushing up with one's feet to take the weight off the arms. But that motion itself would cause severe pain in the feet, arms, legs, and back, causing the exhausted victim to slump down again, only to be nearly unable to breathe once more. Eventually, the victim would succumb to suffocation, if he had not already died as a result of the cumulative effect of the physical trauma inflicted on him.

5. **They divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots.** This clearly references Psalm 22:18. Matthew's readers would have understood that this action fulfilled prophecy.
6. **Outlaws.** That Jesus was crucified with outlaws fulfills Isaiah 53:12.

#### *Matthew 27:39-44*

1. **Those who were walking by.** Jesus was crucified outside of the city gate (Hebrews 13:12) and the people passing by would have been pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover.
2. **Shaking their heads.** An allusion to Psalm 22:7.
3. **Let God deliver him.** An allusion to Psalm 22:8.

#### *Matthew 27:45-50*

1. **Noon until three in the afternoon.** 3:00 pm is when the Jews offered the daily evening sacrifices.
2. **The whole earth was dark.** It was not a solar eclipse, since Passover occurred during a full moon, and a solar eclipse can only occur during a new moon, rather it is a supernatural act of God, displaying his displeasure and judgment upon humanity for crucifying his Son.
3. **Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani...My God, my God, why have you left me.** Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1. This is one of the hardest phrases in the Bible. Did Jesus lose faith? No, he had to be cut off from the Father for the first time in all of eternity to take on the sins of the world. The foresight in quoting Psalm 22 is the end of the chapter ends in great victory (Psalm 22:21-31).
4. **Cried with a loud shout.** He was suffocating and came up with the strength to shout. Showing the world that him experiencing God-forsakenness for the salvation of others.
5. **Elijah.** When Jesus called to God in Aramaic (Eli) it sounds similar to the Hebrew name for Elijah (Eliyahu) which could have led bystanders to misunderstand.

#### **Reflection: (For Youth Leaders only, there will not be small groups Thursday night)**

1. Take time (don't blow past this) to consider what God did through Jesus on the cross.
2. How does this change how you love your students? How does this affect your teaching times?
3. Why do we shy away from the death and just talk about resurrection? There is no resurrection with death.
4. When committees are too much, when congregations get out of hand and have no idea what you do, when parents put too much pressure on you—remember you are loved by the Savior and he desires a real relationship with you.

# FRIDAY

## Freedom: Galatians 5:1, 13

<sup>1</sup> Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again. Galatians 5:1

<sup>13</sup> You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only don't let this freedom be an opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love. Galatians 5:13

**Main Idea:** We gain freedom through Christ's sacrifice on the cross and that call to freedom is a call to love others.

### Scripture Context:

Galatians 5

Written by Paul to the church in Galatia. Paul brought the gospel to Galatia and they believed, but in a short period of time after he left the church started listening to false teachers. Paul writes this letter to help them understand that they are free in Christ. Having a relationship with Jesus does not mean we take on more rules it means we are free from sin and death.

### Scripture Breakdown:

*Galatians 5:1*

1. **Don't submit to the bondage of slavery.** Those who turn to the law for salvation will cut themselves off from salvation.

*Galatians 5:13*

1. Freedom. Paul is speaking about how they are free from Mosaic law as represented by circumcision.
2. **Opportunity to indulge your selfish impulses.** This freedom does not mean to indulge in yourself but instead freedom means serving and loving others.

### Reflection:

1. Did you meet anyone this week that had a relationship with Jesus? What did you notice about them?
2. Now that we have been amazed by God's story the last thing we have to try and understand is freedom. Because of Jesus' sacrifice you are free. What does that mean for you?
3. This is not a freedom that lets us make dumb decisions. This is a freedom that allows you to love others. Did you feel that freedom this week?
4. How do we take that freedom home?

## SATURDAY

### Fish for People: Matthew 4:18-22

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> Right away, they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and <sup>22</sup> immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Matthew 4:18-22

**Main Idea:** Jesus in no way needs us to carry out his love to the world, yet he invites us to be a part of restoring the world.

### Scripture Context:

Matthew 4

The beginning of Matthew 4 is Jesus in the desert being tempted by Satan. Satan tries to disrupt God’s plan for human redemption by causing Jesus to fall into sin and disobedience. Jesus defeats temptation through recalling scripture. After defeating Satan Jesus begins his Galilean ministry, which lasts three years. The headquarters of Jesus’ ministry was Capernaum, which is on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Here he started teaching how people needed to move from darkness to light.

### Scripture Breakdown:

*Matthew 4: 18-19*

1. **Peter and Andrew.** These brothers had been following Jesus for around a year before Jesus’ baptism and time in the desert, but had returned home to their normal work as fisherman. (John 1:35-42)
2. **Throwing nets into the sea.** A circular cast net, 20-25 feet in diameter with lead sinkers attached to the outer edge, enveloped fish as it sank.
3. **Follow me.** Jesus calls them to abandon their ordinary occupations and follow him full-time.

*Matthew 4: 21*

1. **James and John.** Peter, James, and John would become the inner circle of the 12. They were the three that saw Jesus transfigured in all of his glory, they were taken deeper into the garden before Jesus was arrested, and overall they were able to ask more questions and get answers from Jesus.

### Reflection: (For Youth Leaders only, there will not be small groups on Saturday)

1. How does this passage of scripture effect how you leave camp?
2. What do you hope has changed in you, your church, and your group this year when you return home?
3. What group of people do you feel like Jesus is calling you to reach? Everyone is wired in different ways; he has wired all of us to care for others but each of us is passionate about specific people.
4. What are you going to do about your calling?