



# WORTH IT



2022 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS

## PARENT'S CAMP CONNECTION

HOWEVER, I CONSIDER MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING TO ME, IF ONLY I MAY  
FINISH THE RACE AND COMPLETE THE TASK THE LORD JESUS HAS GIVEN  
ME — THE TASK OF TESTIFYING TO THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GRACE.

ACTS 20:24



## 2022 BEDOTELL CAMP PARENT CONNECTION

You have sent your teen off to a week at camp. Your first thoughts may be, “Is it safe enough to send my child to camp?” From COVID-19 to sharks, our minds go to the worst possible scenario. We concentrate on the negatives and what if’s. Will they be bullied? Will someone hurt my teen’s feelings? If we stay on this train of negative thought long enough, we could reach the conclusion that we made a mistake in sending them to camp – or anywhere for that matter.

It’s our focus that counts. Sometimes we only focus on the little irritants and negatives and can’t see anything else.



Do you see the black dot on the page? How big is the dot compared to the entire page?

It’s small, but if we only focus on that, we miss out on so much. A negative focus causes us to worry more than we should, to think of the worst instead of the best and to only think of the difficulties ahead. If we stop and realize that the small black dot may not be worth all the energy we are giving it, we could open ourselves up to new possibilities.

What if my teenagers going to camp opens all kinds of possibilities for them? More friends, fun, laughter, silly games and expressions people their age understand. You have to admit, it’s a struggle to understand their world today as well as all the new TikTok dances.

But beyond all that – what if they found out their worth and purpose in life? What if they focused on the truths of who God made them to be, which is unique and special?

What if they returned home changed? “...All things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27:b, NIV).

It’s possible. It all depends on what we focus on.

When I was younger, I was asked what I treasured the most – what I valued the most. I was asked to pretend that I won a million dollars and to make a list of what I would spend the money on. Boy, did I make a list. You should try it, too.

If you are as old as I am, you have realized that a million dollars do not go as far as I thought it did in my teens or 20s. Your list probably has something for your family – your children, your spouse or your parents. There’s probably a new car or house on the list, too – maybe a vacation or two.

Most of what you list reflects what you value. Remember when you actually wrote checks? At my church small group, we were asked to bring our checkbooks with us to a meeting. I figured they were going to start some kind of fundraiser or ask for donations for a good cause, so I took mine. To my surprise, they asked us to count the places we spent most of our money. I chuckled at first. But the longer we worked on this assignment, we compared notes with each other and all listed our top places. For most of us, our food, housing, clothes for the kids were all from Walmart. Today, Amazon would win for the place we shopped at the most.

Then the question was asked, how does this reflect what you value most? How would you have described where you spent your money before this assignment? Is the reality of where your money actually goes equal to where you anticipated it went?

Write the priorities you place on what is necessary on a weekly basis for your household.

Mostly good things, right?

What you would consider of great worth probably made the list.

But now the question is, what didn't make the list?

There are things you say are so important – worth so much to you – but were they on your list? A lot can be said about what we put value in. However, saying something is valuable and putting action with something we value is totally different. Did time spent with the Lord or with your church family make the list? Did your checkbook include your tithe? When we say we are a Christ-follower, shouldn't what we value mostly include things of God?

This week at camp, your teenagers are going to be discussing where they have placed great worth. If our focus is more on our comfort, material things and how to succeed, we may have missed the point of what a meaningful life spent with Jesus should include.

Maybe some of you have never placed your faith in Jesus because it wasn't worth it to meet your life goals. Maybe you've never given much thought to having faith in something other than yourself – you know you are the only one who won't let you down. So, up until now, faith and church just weren't worth it.

Our prayer is that you will rethink what is of worth in your own life.

For me, the most worthy thing in my life is my relationship with God which helps define my relationship with everyone and everything else.

#### **The God I worship...**

Is before all things	Colossians 1:17
Created all things	Genesis 1:1; John 1:3
Upholds all things	Hebrews 1:3
Is above all things	Ephesians 4:6
Knows all things	Psalms 139:4,6
Can do all things	Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 1:37
Accomplishes all things	Ephesians 1:11
Rules over all things	Daniel 4:34-25

Is in control of all things	Romans 8:28
Earthly things	Proverbs 21:1; Revelation 19:16
Human things	Psalm 33:9-11
Good angels	Colossians 1:15-16; Revelation 4:8
Satan & bad angels	Ephesians 1:21; Philippians 2:10
Human decisions	Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:29-30; Acts 2:23, Acts 13:48

Your teens will hear that “God defines worth, God creates worth and God is worthy.”

Below you will see the focus of each day at camp. Please take time to read over what your students will be focusing on. Read through the Scriptures for that day. Seriously answer the questions about what you place worth in, so you can have some great discussions with your students when they return from camp.

## DAY 1

### Session Title: Is Jesus worth it?

**Purpose:** This session will challenge students with a question that so many young people find themselves asking, “Is it really worth it to surrender their lives to Jesus?” Why should anyone follow Jesus at all costs? The Bible makes as clear a case as one could ask for. Simply put, Jesus is uniquely worthy of the devotion of all humankind. Jesus is the long-awaited Savior who takes away the sins of the world and makes a bridge back to God. Furthermore, Jesus is the only way to a life of true meaning, real purpose and absolute freedom. Is Jesus worth it? He is.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 42:5-9; John 14:1-7; Colossians 1:15-23

- **Isaiah 42:5-9**

The idea here is to see how, in the midst of a rough time for Israel, God promised Jesus as the restorer of His people's future. I want to show how Jesus' purpose and mission were foretold by God centuries before His coming.

- **John 14:1-7**

The idea behind this passage is what Jesus says about Himself. The same mission God foretold in Isaiah, Jesus fulfills before the disciples' eyes. Here Jesus promises redemption and restoration, but more than that, in answering Thomas, Jesus positions Himself as the only pathway to the redemption He offers.

- **Colossians 1:15-23**

The idea behind this passage is that it shows, definitively, the worthiness of Christ. Not only do verses 15-20 describe Jesus in a way that makes it clear that He alone is worthy of our devotion, but verses 21-22 show the incredible effects of God's rescue plan. This is such a powerful summation of the gospel.

*Ask yourself, have you personally placed your faith in Jesus to forgive you of your sins, reconcile you to God and make it possible for you to be in heaven in God's presence for all eternity?*

## DAY 2

### Session Title: Am I worth it?

**Purpose:** This lesson will challenge students to consider their own self-worth. Teenagers are bombarded by messages about their value. They are told by the world around them that their worth is based on their appearance, their performance or their acceptance. They constantly compare themselves to what they see on social media. They are surrounded by the pressure to perform academically or athletically in order to earn approval and status. They base their value on how many followers, likes and comments their accounts can generate. But these things have no promise of real value. They only leave teenagers hollow. Real, lasting value is found only in their identities as children of God. This session will highlight where we see this in Scripture and challenge students to embrace the truth that God sees them as eternally valuable.

**Scripture:** Psalm 139:13-16; John 1:9-13; Romans 8:12-17

- **Psalm 139:13-16**

Psalm 139:1-12 makes the case that God knows us. He really knows us. He has always known us. He knows our thoughts. He knows our righteous intentions. He knows our sinful ones. We can't pull the wool over His eyes. He sees us exactly for who we are in a way that no one else does. And yet, David could still say in verses 13-16 that our lives exist because God ordained them to. We are not an accident. God is aware of our unique lives long before we were even a thought in our parents' minds. God knows us. We were part of His plan before we were even born.

- **John 1:9-13**

We are saved through faith, and one of the most vital aspects of our salvation is our adoption into God's family. We are not saved to an eternal life with God in some cold, transactional way. God could have worked out a plan that allowed for our salvation but stopped there, and yet He still would have been gracious and merciful. But in His love, His plan is not just one of rescue but one of reconciliation. We are not just saved, we are adopted. And as individuals, this is where our worth and value comes from. We are children of the Most High, literal sons and daughters of the King of kings. The world can say nothing to us about our worth because we are spoken for by God, our Father.

- **Romans 8:12-17**

The concept of adoption is amazing. Not only are we children of God; we are co-heirs with Christ. The fact that a rebellious sinner could ever hope to receive such a blessing is beyond all of our expectations. But this speaks powerfully to our value and worth. God the Father looks at us through the lens of the work His Son did on the cross and sees us as His children in His household – that is where our worth comes from. We bear the name of our Father, and we have the rights and privileges of heirs of His house. No otherworldly source of value can come close to the value we have as children of God.

*Ask yourself where you have placed your value. Is it in what the world deems important or in how God sees you as loveable?*

## DAY 3

### Session Title: Is living the Christian life worth it?

**Purpose:** The question, "Is living the Christian life worth it," is one teenagers ask themselves all the time, whether they say it out loud or not. It's a constant equation that gets evaluated and reevaluated as students navigate the world they live in. Is it worth it? Is it worth it to identify as a Christ-follower and face all that comes with that proclamation? The great news is that God's Word offers an unequivocal answer to this question. Not only is it worth it to follow God, it is the only way to a life of true purpose—a life that really matters. We find the Christian life "worth it" when we embrace the calling God has put on our lives.

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 3:7-11

• **1 Peter 2:9**

At the very earliest moments of God formalizing His covenant with Israel, we see that He infused the covenantal relationship with meaning and purpose. God's people (which, bringing in 1 Peter 2 shows that in Christ, this calling was extended to all who are saved), are not only His treasure, but they have a task and a purpose. Initially, the Israelites were to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. They were to be a people set apart in order to bring glory to God but also to lead others to do the same. This lays the groundwork for the idea that we find the Christian life worthy when we embrace the call God has put on our lives.

• **Matthew 5:13-16**

This is Jesus articulating in His own way the calling and purpose God has for His people. Our lives are vital to God's plan. God's people faithfully living the Christian life is one of the primary ways God advances His kingdom. We are not simply saved from our sins, but we are saved to a life of purpose. We are God's plan to share the light and life of the gospel.

• **Philippians 3:7-11**

This is such a powerful perspective. Here Paul is near the end of His life, looking back and counting the cost. Underlying this passage, we can almost hear Paul asking the question, "Was living the Christian life worth it?" Paul would answer a resounding, "Yes." Living the Christian life, with its challenges and trials, was worth everything to Paul. We can learn from Paul, knowing that a faithful life of following Christ doesn't return void.

*Ask yourself, have you discovered that living for Jesus is worth it? His giftings to you to use for Him are limitless, but you have to be intentional to live for Him and not for yourself. Have you made a list of friends, co-workers and family members that need to know about the peace that comes from placing their faith and trust in Jesus? Have you made a plan to share with them what you know of Jesus and God's great love for them?*

## DAY 4

### Session Title: Is the church worth it?

**Purpose:** Study after study paints a troubling picture of American church engagement. More and more, American Christians are increasingly absent from their local congregations. Church participation is at an all-time low. Is it any wonder students and adults alike are asking, "Is the church worth it?" And yet, what does the Bible say about the church? The picture the Bible paints of the church is that of the body of Christ, a gift from God to Believers and a powerful resource for God's vision of His kingdom breaking through in this world. Our task is to help students recapture an understanding of the importance of the church and their role in it.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Matthew 16:13-20; Ephesians 2:19-22; Romans 12:3-8

• **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

The idea here is to show God's desire to make a people, the "called out" ones who were His own children. We won't conflate Israel with the church, but we will show God's heart for a people that were His, set apart and called together – first Israel, then through Israel, the church. God's intent was always to have a people special to Himself.

• **Matthew 16:13-20 and Ephesians 2:19-22**

These two passages will be covered together. The Matthew 16 passage shows the means by which we become a part of the church, through a confession of Christ as Lord. (The Ephesians 2 passage helps clarify Matthew 16:18). The idea is that when we confess Christ, we become a part of the church, the global, historical body of believers.

• **Romans 12:3-8**

We treat this passage as a general overview of what it means to be knit together with one another, as one body, given gifts to use to support and grow one another. Our participation in the body is essential. We all have our part to play. We are all vital. The church is worth it. And students have a vital role to play.

Ask yourself, is going to church a priority? Is your church reaching out to your community to share the love of Christ? The church is more than just where Christians go on Sunday – it's a group of people who believe that there is only one way to God and that's through Jesus Christ. The church should provide ways for everyone to grow in their knowledge of Jesus, as well as be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community. Where does your church need to grow in reaching others for Jesus? What do you need to do instead of just going to church? Where are places you can serve and small groups you can be a part of to grow in your own walk with Christ?

Your students return home on Saturday. They had fun, laughed and played. They also have lots of stinky clothes. But more importantly, they have been given an opportunity to encounter Jesus. Please don't bring their focus back to where negativity and worry are. Look at the larger space where they can focus on what they learned of Jesus this week. Help them to be accountable to live what they have seen and heard. If we aren't intentional in making changes in areas of our lives that God has revealed to us, then we will miss out on the joy of knowing Him more deeply. No matter what, having a relationship with Jesus Christ here on earth and for all eternity is worth it!