



2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



MONDAY QUIET TIME DEVOTION

Note to Leaders:

Please take a few minutes to make copies of this first camp quiet time for everyone in your group. We have found that students who have done a quiet time prior to arriving at camp are more prepared for the week ahead. We have also found that giving the devotion to students during the drive to Caswell — first thing as they begin the trip, right after lunch or about 30 minutes prior to arrival — begins their preparation for the awesome week ahead. If on the way is not possible, please make time once you arrive at Caswell for students to read the devotion before they attend evening worship in Hatch Auditorium. Thanks for your help in this matter, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



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Good News: Jesus is the source of the Good Life!

Main Idea: Having a relationship with Jesus is the source of living the Good Life.

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Explore:

What is the Good Life?

When you read that question, what instantly comes to your mind? For most of us, the answer to that question would be based more on a version of real life we desire to have rather than the real life we presently have.

- We would love to live at the beach and enjoy warm weather every day vs. living in our cities and towns that have changing weather patterns all year.
- We would love to eat Chick-fil-A/Bojangles/McDonald’s every day vs. whatever is in the pantry or fridge at home.
- We would love to not have to deal with school and all the learning as teenagers vs. being able to spend all our time playing video games, sports, getting lost on social media, or watching reels all day.

The Bible has many important things to say about the Good Life, but more specifically, Jesus has something important to say about living the Good Life. In His most famous sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, He issues declarations on how to truly live the Good Life. We call these declarations the Beatitudes, and they’re found in the beginning of Matthew 5. Each declaration begins with “Blessed are...” and in Greek, the word “blessed” means “happy, blissful” or literally “to be enlarged.”

To be genuinely happy and full of bliss is to have a deep joy in your heart and soul. To be one of the “Blessed” is to be someone who knows our joy doesn’t come from anyone or anything in this world. We are joyful because we have a relationship with Jesus and believe in our



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hearts that he is our source of joy.

The person in the Beatitudes passage in Matthew 5 is referring to someone who has a different quality of character and a lifestyle that is a kingdom-of-Heaven lifestyle. Those who are in Christ truly see their life as blessed because of Jesus and what He gives us.

Engage:

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord? _____

Are you one of the “Blessed” persons that Matthew 5 is referring to? _____

What do you do (daily) or need to start doing to live with deep joy in your soul (knowing Jesus is our source of true joy)? _____

Pray: Ask God to show you what the Good Life truly is this week during camp. Ask him to open your eyes to the truth that Jesus is our source of salvation, blessings and peace in this crazy world.