

# 2013 CAMP CLASSES

## *Missional Living*

### CLASS I: STRANGERS & HOSPITALITY

*Missional People reach out*

**Chapter 8: Rediscovering the Joy of Hospitality, Right Here, Right Now**

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

Have you ever experienced the awkwardness of being in a room full of people and yet felt alone? Have you ever traveled to a foreign country and experienced a new culture that made you uncomfortable? You don't actually have to travel to a different country to think about what it might feel like to be an outsider. Imagine what it would feel like to walk into Cameron Indoor Stadium decked out in Carolina blue! My guess is that you would feel very much like an outsider.

There are outsiders and 'foreigners' all around you, and I'm not necessarily talking about people from other countries. There are people around you who are strangers to the church, and to Jesus. There are people in your school who feel like an outsider when they walk into the cafeteria or a classroom because they don't quite fit in. The question for you as a follower of Jesus is, 'How does God want me to treat them?'

This class will begin by looking at the story of the Israelites and their time as foreigners and strangers in Egypt and God's commands for how they should accept people from other countries. In several places in the Old Testament, the Israelites are commanded to love the stranger living among them.

Loving the stranger continues in the New Testament, as followers of Jesus began to see that they still had a responsibility to love all people. The word they often use for this is hospitality, which is a combination of two Greek words for 'love' and 'stranger.' So, extending hospitality to someone is literally loving the stranger, the foreigner, the person who is feeling awkward in any given situation.

When this class is over, you should have a better understanding of how God loves the outsider and, as one of God's, you are called to not just know in your head that you need to do this, but find ways to actually do it!

#### **HELPFUL TEXTS**

- Exodus 1-16
- Leviticus 19:33-34
- Deuteronomy 10:19
- Leviticus 19:10; 23:22;
- Deuteronomy 10:17-18, 14:29; 24:19-20; 26:11-12;
- Psalm 146
- Romans 12: 10, 13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9;
- Matthew 25: 37-46 & Luke 14:15-24

**QUESTIONS:**

- How can you show hospitality to others as a teenager?
- Why does God want his people to be hospitable?
- When was a time someone was hospitable to you?

## **CLASS II:** **IDENTITY**

*Missional People know who they are and what defines them*

**CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

Who are you? You have a name, parents, family, brothers and sisters, but who are you? Part of living missionally is having a deep understanding of your identity in Christ and letting God's living Word tell you who you are!

There are many things in this world that can give you your identity, sports, academics, and when you get older, things like kids, jobs and degrees will be how many people judge your worth. But what if others immediately identified you as a follower of Jesus? What would have to change in your life to get you to a point where others would see that?

This class is going to look at who God says you are. We might even deal with some really big questions like, What is a human being? What does it mean to be a man or a woman and follow Jesus? How does my lived life look different from people around me?

Along with finding your identity in Christ is opening yourself up to the possibility of having God's Word give you your identity. Heb. 4:12 reads "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

What happens when you become a person whose identity is found in The Story of the Bible? What does it mean for your identity to come from Jesus and scripture? What if you got so deep in the story of Jesus that you started to see its relevance all around you? What if you stopped thinking about trying to interpret the Bible, but let it interpret you, listen to it and tell you your identity? I think the quote below does a good job of discussing how the Bible can give us an identity.

"Any conversation must allow for both sides to communicate, and this most unfamiliar act is allowing oneself to be open to hearing God speak. One of the biases that we bring to the Bible, and one that blocks the possibility of true conversation, is that assumption that we read it. We are the active party. The Jewish approach to Scripture is that we don't read the Bible but rather that it reads us! Our standard practice is to assume we are its interpreter and therefore the arbitrator of its meaning. Jewish approaches reverse this: we are not the interpreter, but rather it is the Torah that interprets us. This is because it is God who addresses us in Scripture; hence the idea of revelation that is so important to a biblical worldview. 'It is not so much that we raise the question about him, but that he raises questions of us.'" - *Right Here, Right Now*, p. 104

**HELPFUL TEXTS:****Identity:** Ephesians 2: 1-10; Romans 8; Galatians 3:26-29**Jesus as Living Word:** John 1:1-18

Hebrews 4:1-12

**QUESTIONS/CLASS ACTIVITIES:**

I. I think what's going to make this class different from past classes on the topic of identity is thinking about God's living Word (Jesus), identifying and changing us through our encounters with Him in scripture. I would suggest taking the first class period to lay out the idea of Jesus as the Living Word, of scripture as something that is living and breathing, and that we spend too much time trying to interpret it, instead of letting it interpret us. The second class period might be spent examining a scripture of your choosing where you go through the meditation activity below.

A. Choose a Psalm, a parable or an excerpt from Jesus' teachings in Luke 6 or Matthew 5-7. Read through the text and ask the following questions. I think you have an opportunity here to choose different texts each day (so it doesn't get boring for you), and also texts that might be good for a group of boys or a group of girls to hear. The goal here is to get campers reading the Bible in such a way that they see its relevance and that they look to it as a source of their identity.

1. What does this text say?
2. What is Jesus saying to me in and through this text?
3. What do I want to say to Jesus about this text?
4. How will this text change me? How does this text tell me who I am?

II. To add another dimension to the discussion of identity, read through a section of this letter written in the first century about early Christians. What can you learn about how they thought about their identity in Christ based on this description? Chapter V is especially good for this activity.

[The Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus](#).

## CLASS III:

### SEAMLESS SPIRITUALITY

*Missional People see God in all people and in all things*

#### **CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

“You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink.”

-- G.K. Chesterton

I really like this quote from Chesterton because he gets at a dimension of spirituality, and, for that matter Christianity, that we often overlook. That dimension is that all things are God's, all time is God's and God is everywhere.

This isn't the same as saying that all things are God or time is our God or all places are our God. The God we serve isn't a beautiful sunset or the stars in the sky or the wind in the trees, but all of these things are God's, and they all sing his praises.

In order to be a missional people, we need to cultivate the ability to see the world as God's. All of the world. We also need to cultivate the spiritual practice of seeing all people as God's people, and everything we do as an opportunity to give glory to God. The reason why we need to do this is because as He sends us out, we need to have eyes to see, eyes to find God in places where we might have missed Him. Just like with Jesus' ministry, often times God is found in usual places and faith is discovered in unlikely people.

So, our question is 'How do we get here? How do we develop a spirituality that is *seamless*, that truly sees all of life as an opportunity to praise God and worship Him?' How do we develop a spirituality that reflects Chesterton's quote?

The easy thing to do is compartmentalize our faith; put it in a box on the side and only open the box on Sundays and Wednesday nights. Being a Christian is about more than going to church (which you should still do), it is a way of life.

#### **HELPFUL TEXTS:**

- God created this world, and he came and dwelled here. God's presence is what gives this world its weight and its glory (**Gen.1-2**). So, we look for God here in this world because it was created by God and his presence in the world sustains it. God is here. When God sends us out, we go with the knowledge that He is already there and already working in and among people.
- **John 4:4-26** - Jesus talks to an unlikely woman about belief in God. What does Jesus' encounter with this woman teach us about the kind of worship God finds pleasing?
- **Mark 12:28-34** - What does Jesus' encounter with this teacher of the law teach us about what God finds important? How revolutionary of a statement was it for Jesus to say that loving God and neighbor is more important than all of the burnt offerings?

- **Matthew 25: 31-46** - Jesus asks us to see people in a different light. When we see people who are hungry, thirsty or even sinful, we don't see all of that, we see Jesus. Our task is to figure out how to do this everyday.

## RESOURCES

- These videos are of Randy Harris teaching at a men's retreat, but I think there is some good stuff in here that either class might use for this class.

[Randy Harris Part 1 \(2/6\)](#)

[Randy Harris Part 1 \(3/6\)](#)

[Randy Harris Part 1 \(4/6\)](#)

[Randy Harris Part 1 \(5/6\)](#)

[Randy Harris Part 1 \(6/6\)](#)

- Here are my notes on the four ways Randy talks about how we can practice the presence of God in our everyday lives.

**1. Today I will be incompetent** - Fail other three, fall back on this!

Nothing drives away presence of God like your own sense of competence. You work during day then you go to bed and God takes over. World better off when you go to bed. Not the way we think. When we are weak, God is strong.

**2. Today I will be fully present to people in front of me and to God** - Jesus can have an encounter with a person for 5 minutes, it's as if they were the only two people to exist in the world. Men have bigger problems with this than women. Technology is what gets in the way of us seeing other people. Inability to be present. Phones, T.V.s, computers. Will we be attentive enough to see what God is doing in the world.

**3. Today I will be the Christ.** - All have different talents and skills, different ways of loving God. What would Jesus look like if he were in my situation? What would Jesus look like if he were a teenager living where you live and going to school where you go to school?

**4. Today I will see the Christ** - Not enough to just be Christ to other people, but we have to see Christ in other people. Mt. 25:31-46 - Jesus invites us to see the world in a certain way. When you see hurting, needy, even sinful, people, what you should see is Me. Changes the way you see everything, especially if you are not a people person.

- Share with campers the story of Brother Lawrence and his spiritual memoir [Practicing the Presence of God](#). You can read more about Brother Lawrence's [life](#) [here](#). Randy referenced this in his teaching.  
“Use yourself then by degrees thus to worship Him, to beg His grace, to offer Him your heart from time to time, in the midst of your business, even every moment if you can. Do not always scrupulously confine yourself to

certain rules, or particular forms of devotion; but act with a general confidence in GOD, with love and humility." - Brother Lawrence

- [This article](#) is a link to a review of *Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor on the spiritual practice of finding God beneath you, wherever you are, and in all aspects of life. I have a copy I'll bring to camp, but, if you have time, this might serve as a good resource.

### QUESTIONS:

- Is it really possible to worship God in all things? Can we really 'pray without ceasing?' (1 Thess. 5:17) How do we worship God in all areas of our lives?
- Do people respond differently to 'Jesus' than to 'Christianity?' Why? What's the difference?
- How can we worship God in all areas of our lives?
- What aspects of your life do you think you need to examine for God's presence?

## CLASS IV: WHAT IS GOD'S MISSION?

*Missional People know and embody God's Mission*

### CLASS DESCRIPTION

If we are to be missional people, we need to realize that this life, this world, is God's mission field, and God is working out his mission through us. This raises a really good question, 'What is God's mission?'

This class will examine this question. It will look at the mission of God in scripture, by giving an overview of God's call to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and his desire to see them bless the nations around them. Being chosen by God did not mean that the Israelites were to sit back and enjoy God's blessing and favor. Instead, they were called to use their status as the elect to bless other people.

Jesus is also part of God's mission, and Luke 4 relates Jesus' mission statement. What does this tell us about God's mission and about what Jesus was to do in his ministry? What does this tell us about our role in God's mission?

This class is trying to tackle a pretty big question in just a small amount of time. I think what I have in mind for the class is for students to encounter God's story in the OT and NT, seeing how God worked to bring about his mission. This continues into Jesus and to his church today. There's obviously too much information to go through in the time period you have. Try to link God's mission in the OT with Jesus in the NT and the church today.

### HELPFUL TEXTS:

- Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14 - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob receive word from God to be a blessing to all people.
- Isaiah 42:5-7 - God's people to be a blessing to the nations
- Galatians 3:6-15
- Luke 4:18-19

**RESOURCES:**

- [This link is a series of blog posts](#) about God's Mission and the Missional Church from the Patheos website. It provides a quick outlining of God's mission in the OT, and through Jesus and how we participate in this mission.

**QUESTIONS:**

- What is God's mission?
- Why does God have a mission?
- How did God carry out his mission in the OT?
- How does Jesus fit into God's overall mission for the world? What did Jesus do as part of God's mission?
- How do we participate in God's mission?