

Name: _____



now what?

*What if You Were Chosen To
Make a Difference?*

NOTES/JOURNAL:

“Your life has purpose now, right now your life has divinely appointed purpose...”



Welcome to Winter Camp 2006!
This book is designed with the people who are in years 7 to 10 in mind to help you reflect upon the bible studies and conversations that you'll be having at camp. Your bible study leader is Darren Wright, he's a youth worker from Canberra and will be focusing on the question of "What is God calling you to now?"

During each day you'll have a Bible Study session with Darren in the morning and also a Learning Group time in the afternoon. During the learning group time we'll be providing you with some material, pens, paper, clay, paint, glue, magazines etc for you to focus on the questions for the day (which can be found on page 2).

You may wish to think about the studies alone, or you might want to think about stuff as a group, whatever you choose will be fine. There are some ideas for you to use in the book as individuals or as groups to help you think about the issues at hand. There will also be some leaders around who are there to help you during this time.

You may wish to use this book to write prayers, thoughts, notes from the studies, people's email addresses... but we'd like to encourage you to use it to help you reflect on the studies during the day. Use this as a resource to help you think about the studies and what God may be trying to tell you.



*“Always God assumes
that we are going to do
this in partnership with
him”*

- Bruce Van Blair

Monday...

What are my weaknesses?
What have been/would be my excuses?
Have I ever heard God calling me?

Tuesday...

When do I feel alone?
What gifts has God shared with me?
What does it mean to know that God will
be with me all the time?

Thursday...

What do I fear?
How do my fears control me?
Am I more afraid of failing or succeeding?

Friday

Is God calling me?
Where do I think God is calling me?
What do I want to be now?
How does my calling change the way I'll live at school?

Questions For Learning Group Time...

NOTES/JOURNAL:



Jeremiah Chapter 1 :

The Message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah of the family of priests who lived in Anathoth in the country of Benjamin. God's Message began to come to him during the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amos reigned over Judah. It continued to come to him during the time Jehoiakim son of Josiah reigned over Judah. And it continued to come to him clear down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah over Judah, the year that Jerusalem was taken into exile. This is what God said:

"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you.

Before you saw the light of day,

I had holy plans for you:

A prophet to the nations - that's what I had in mind for you. "

But I said, "Hold it, Master God! Look at me. I don't know anything. I'm only a boy!"

God told me, "Don't say, 'I'm only a boy.'"

I'll tell you where to go and you'll go there.

I'll tell you what to say and you'll say it.

Don't be afraid of a soul.

I'll be right there, looking after you. "

God's Decree.

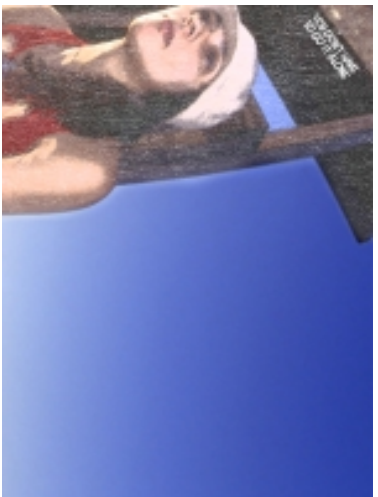
God reached out, touched my mouth, and said, "Look! I've just put my words in your mouth-hand-delivered!

See what I've done? I've given you a job to do among nations and governments - a red-letter day!

Your job is to pull up and tear down, take apart and demolish, And then start over, building and planting."

***"If you get to be
thirty-five and your
job still involves
wearing a name tag,
you've probably made
a serious vocational
error."***

- Dennis Miller



Prayer
 Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

**“We believe that life decision number
 one, for all generations, is “How does
 God want to use my life to make a
 difference in the world?””**

- Tom Sine

**“Many people mistake
 our work for our
 vocation. Our vocation is
 the love of Jesus.”**
 - Mother Teresa

God's Message came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?"
 I said, "A walking stick-that's all."
 And God said, "Good eyes! I'm sticking with you.
 I'll make every word I give you come true."

God's Message came again: "So what do you see now?"
 I said, "I see a boiling pot, tipped down toward us."
 Then God told me, "Disaster will pour out of the north
 on everyone living in this land."
 Watch for this: I'm calling all the kings out of the north."
 God's Decree.

"They'll come and set up headquarters
 facing Jerusalem's gates,
 Facing all the city walls,
 facing all the villages of Judah.
 I'll pronounce my judgment on the people of Judah
 for walking out on me-what a terrible thing to do!
 And courting other gods with their offerings,
 worshiping as gods sticks they'd carved, stones they'd
 painted.

"But you-up on your feet and get dressed for work!
 Stand up and say your piece. Say exactly what I tell you
 to say.
 Don't pull your punches
 or I'll pull you out of the lineup.

"Stand at attention while I prepare you for your work.
 I'm making you as impregnable as a castle,
 Immovable as a steel post,
 solid as a concrete block wall.
 You're a one-man defense system
 against this culture,
 Against Judah's kings and princes,
 against the priests and local leaders.
 They'll fight you, but they won't
 even scratch you.
 I'll back you up every inch of the way."
 God's Decree.





Exodus 3

Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the west end of the wilderness and came to the mountain of God, Horeb. The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. He looked. The bush was blazing away but it didn't burn up.

Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

He said, "Yes? I'm right here!"

God said, "Don't come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You're standing on holy ground."

Then he said, "I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. "

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

God said, "I've taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I've heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters. I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them, pry them loose from the grip of Egypt, get them out of that country and bring them to a good land with wide-open spaces, a land lush with milk and honey, the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

5 "The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt. "

*"Here lies Mr Smith,
born a man, died a
grocer"*

- Tombstone

*"Before I shaped you in the womb,
I knew all about you.*

18

Before you saw the light of day,

I had holy plans for you:

A prophet to the nations -

that's what I had in mind for you. "

- Jeremiah

Luke 5

Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch. "

Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets. " It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself. "

When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women. " They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him.



Group Discussion - Gifts and Work

As a group read aloud 1 Corinthians 12, in which Paul describes how the Spirit gives a variety of spiritual gifts to the church and compares the church to the human body that requires a variety of members in order to function properly.



On a piece of paper make two headings: “Gifts” and “Work.” Under “Gifts” ask each other to list the different gifts you are aware of in your faith community. Under “Work” have each other list the various tasks that need performing in order for their church to remain healthy.

As a group compare the two lists.

Discuss: How could your church make space for gifts not currently being employed?

How could our church recruit and equip people for work that needs doing?

“Make the world your hobby”

- Paul Borthwick

Moses answered God, “But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

“I’ll be with you,” God said. “And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the People of Israel and I tell them, ‘The God of your fathers sent me to you’; and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ What do I tell them?”

God said to Moses, “I-AM-WHO-I-AM. Tell the People of Israel, ‘I-AM sent me to you.’”

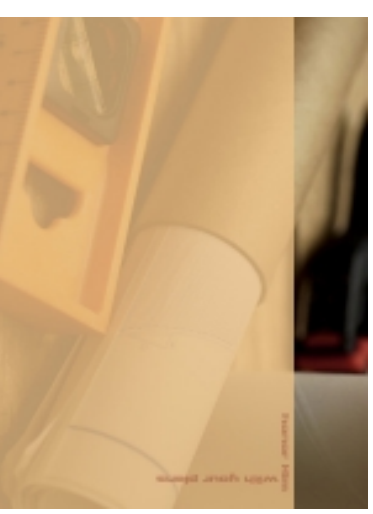
God continued with Moses: “This is what you’re to say to the Israelites: ‘God, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob sent me to you.’ This has always been my name, and this is how I always will be known.”

“Now be on your way. Gather the leaders of Israel. Tell them, ‘God, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, appeared to me, saying, ‘I’ve looked into what’s being done to you in Egypt, and I’ve determined to get you out of the affliction of Egypt and take you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, a land brimming over with milk and honey.’”

“Believe me, they will listen to you. Then you and the leaders of Israel will go to the king of Egypt and say to him: ‘God, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness where we will worship God—our God.’”

“I know that the king of Egypt won’t let you go unless forced to, so I’ll intervene and hit Egypt where it hurts—oh, my miracles will send them reeling! - after which they’ll be glad to send you off. I’ll see to it that this people get a hearty send-off by the Egyptians—when you leave, you won’t leave empty-handed! Each woman will ask her neighbor and any guests in her house for objects of silver and gold, for jewelry and extra clothes; you’ll put them on your sons and daughters. Oh, you’ll clean the Egyptians out!”

***“It is not more
vacation we need -
it is more
vocation.”***
Eleanor Roosevelt



“The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work that you need most to do and that the world most needs to have done. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet”
- Frederick Buechner



Group Discussion - When I was 5...

Remember what your five-year-old self wanted to be when you grew up? Share with a group of people what you wanted to be or do and what influenced their ideals of work at age five.

Share with each other if you would still choose the same vocation now, and why/why not.

Share with each other how your sense of your occupation has grown over the years, if you've changed your mind share how and why you've changed your mind.

7



Personal Prayer - The Labyrinth

Use the Labyrinth walk, following the instructions on page 15. Start the walk with one of the day's questions (page 2) and as you walk the path keep on pondering the question. When you reach the centre stop, pray, listen, is there anything that God might be saying to you about the question? Write some of your thoughts below.

“Vocation is finding a purpose for your life that is part of the purposes of God.”

- Walter Brueggemann

Group Discussion - Why Work?

“Some people live in order to work. Other people work in order to live.”

As a group think of some famous or other people that you know of who are examples of one or the other approach.

Discuss the difference between each approach, which appeals to you more?

The Labyrinth

8

A labyrinth is a walking meditation with three stages - the journey in; the centre; and the journey out. During this camp we are thinking about how God is calling us and where we are being called to be followers of God. Here's a few suggestions for your walk...

- + life is a journey - as you walk reflect on your life's journey and your relationship with God
- + walk slowly
- + avoid the temptation to chat with others on the journey
- + use the journey in to the centre to quiet down, to slow down, to let go of busyness and stress, to confess sin and ask forgiveness, and to prepare to meet with God
- + as you walk be aware of others on the journey - pray for them
- + sometimes you will be close to the centre and sometimes close to the edge - are you close or far from God in your journey?
- + as you reach the centre this is holy space - a space to be with God in prayer
- + listen - is there something God might be saying to you?
- + when you are ready begin the journey out - as you do, take your encounter with God with you back into the world
- + pray for the presence of God in the situations you are facing in everyday life
- + as you finish the journey offer yourself afresh to God



“Well, it's certainly very appropriate for any Christian to ask, to struggle with a calling, a vocation. I do it. Every Christian does.”
- Jim Wallis

Personal Time...

- a) Pray for God to show you new ways that God can use your life to make a difference through your life, family, school, friends.
- b) In your journal take some time to define as clearly as you can a specific goal for the way God is calling you to make a difference either through refocussing an existing ministry, joining a ministry or creating a new ministry in your school, church or spare time.
- c) List the steps that you'll have to take in order to see these things done.
- d) Share your thoughts with a friend or leader and ask them to pray for you and support you as you get things going.



“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs - ask yourself what makes you come alive, and then go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

- Howard Thurman



“Do whatever arouses you most to love”
- Mother Teresa

Group Discussion -

What comes to mind when you hear the word job?

Form a small group of people, grab a sheet of paper and write down all the words and images that come to mind when you hear the word job. Write as many words as you can until you’ve exhausted all words.

Discuss with each other what you think about jobs that you’ve just listed.

Share with each other how many words have negative or positive associations?

Share with each other what stories or experiences have shaped your positive and negative views of work

9



Judges 6

One day the angel of God came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezarite, whose son Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress, out of sight of the Midianites. The angel of God appeared to him and said, “God is with you, O mighty warrior!”

Gideon replied, “With me, my master? If God is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all the miracle-wonders our parents and grandparents told us about, telling us, ‘Didn’t God deliver us from Egypt?’ The fact is, God has nothing to do with us—he has turned us over to Midian.”

But God faced him directly: “Go in this strength that is yours. Save Israel from Midian. Haven’t I just sent you?”

Gideon said to him, “Me, my master? How and with what could I ever save Israel? Look at me. My clan’s the weakest in Manasseh and I’m the runt of the litter.”

God said to him, “I’ll be with you. Believe me, you’ll defeat Midian as one man.”

Gideon said, “If you’re serious about this, do me a favor: Give me a sign to back up what you’re telling me. Don’t leave until I come back and bring you my gift.”

He said, “I’ll wait till you get back.”

Story from Cara, currently serving in India...

Sahara House in New Delhi, India is a 'therapeutic community' for intravenous drug users and individuals with HIV / AIDS. It started out with a group of Christians, 30 years ago, inviting a handful of IV drug users to their home for a family dinner. They got personally involved with marginalized people, and everything changed. What evolved became known as 'Sahara House' and is now run almost entirely by ex (and current!) drug users who have found rehabilitation through the Sahara community. The center doesn't emphasize getting off drugs to go back to a nice peaceful life or secure job - it emphasizes getting off drugs to take your part in changing the world! Likewise, Sahara doesn't run dry, public-health-MA-designed programs, it runs stuff thought up by users themselves.

And this is where the stories of inspiration start flowing.

Take for instance the band. Sahara is arguably the only rehab center in India with it's own rock band! The Doors, Roses, Beatles, U2, Nirvana - you can find it all next week at a united nations convention on HIV/AIDS where the band has regular gigs. On the aids awareness front, they have just cut their first cd featuring a love song they wrote about 'Jane and 'John' and the need to use condoms, to be distributed at a gig they had at a New Delhi University. They are also the only rehab center with their own semi-professional soccer team who have taken out national titles in their category and play in a league that promotes aids awareness.

In house, there are the Friday night rooftop coffee nights to 'sweat out' the drugs (through dancing) and the house tradition of entrusting the daily money for food and provisions to a current rehab patient to go out and get the supplies of for the day. A friend who is now Sahara 'program co-coordinator' describes the moment when he was trusted with Rs.400 to go and buy vegetables and rice for lunch for everyone at the center, as a breakthrough moment in his rehab and his life.

Of course some days, the community members have gone hungry, but it's a risk deemed worth taking. Then there are the programs to help those in the community outside the rehab doors.

One of the most touching mornings recently, was rocking up at the front door of the rehab center, only to see one of the current 'patients' I knew well, walking out. He was carrying a plastic bag with some clothes in it and



I was worried he had given up. In reality, he had been drafted to be on the Sahara 'drama team' performing street theatre that educates people who don't understand basic health concepts about HIV/AIDS and safe injecting practices in the outside community. The plastic bag contained his costume. His first morning out of rehab and this guy was back on the streets with the outreach workers!

The last anecdote I will share is a personal story that has kept me awake at night and given Christ a new face for me.

Recently (monday) one of the guys who is just completing his (3 month) rehab, started working as a care worker encouraging and supporting other addicts. He had originally intended to look for a job in the outside community (this is a professional, guy from a rich family, etc) but chose, instead to work for Sahara as a way of paying back some of the money spent on him. You see he is HIV positive and the drugs that he needs to prolong his life (Anti retro-viral drugs or ARV's) are really expensive. The Indian government has promised to provide them free (and been given grants to do so) but hasn't as yet, come through on that promise, and so, other than the ultra rich, most positive Indians suffer and die of AIDS, long before their time. Through his family, connections, etc, this guy probably could have afforded ARV, but as, as he explained to me, majority of HIV positive India do not have access to these drugs, and until the government changes the situation, he is forfeiting his right to take them.

Forfeiting his right.....!

He has been positive for 9 years and most of the people who contracted HIV in the same year as him in India, are dead. Friends and family have been pleading with him for years to take ARV, but he has refused, up until now, at which point he has found out that his physical condition has deteriorated to such an extent that he needs a different type of ARV which are stronger (and of course more expensive) to live. He has decided to start taking the stronger drugs and Sahara has offered to sponsor him for as long as he needs to be on them (until he dies). And so, after refusing treatment to stand in solidarity with those who don't have a choice, now in the worst physical condition he has ever been in, he is 'going back to work' full time, with addicts and other positive guys, to pay off his own treatment.

"Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend....."

Yesterday, in my diary I wrote;

"...sometimes i am so overwhelmed by the strength and courage and inspiration that surrounds me that i forget i am in a drug rehab center, then i go to the toilet and realise someone has stolen the taps....."

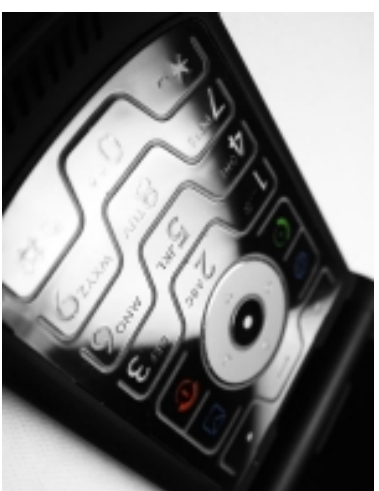
pretty much sums it up really!!!

“Seek first the Kingdom of God”

You might, for a moment, stop to pray the prayer from Psalm 139. And why not, as you do so, find a mirror and stare into it deeply. Ask yourself first how you see yourself. Be honest.

You might like to write down what you observe. Secondly ask yourself how other people see you. Again, be honest. How would you judge this person in the mirror if you were passing them on a bus, or in the train station?

Thirdly, ask how God might see you. What lies behind the face? Beyond the lines of experience that are faintly drawn in the folds of our skin? Beyond the hairstyle, or the makeup? What is the difference between the way that God might see us and the way we perceive ourselves? Write down your thoughts and pray again the psalm.



to talk to God about, what questions you might have for God, what might you want to tell God, what might you like to promise to God, what you plan to do after camp, what you plan to do at school... Think about these things as you write, after you're finished you may wish to put it in your bible to keep for a while and think about later.

Personal Activity

Spend some time alone and write yourself a letter to God, ask yourself what you'd like

Group Discussion - God's work

As a group look up each of these Old Testament passages and describe the work God does:

- Genesis 1
- Genesis 2:7-10
- Psalm 104:24-30
- Isaiah 66:13
- Job 38:25-27
- Psalm 139:1, 13-16

Share with each other:

- How God's work and human work is similar?
- How do they differ?
- How would you describe the work Jesus did during his earthly ministry?