

TEAM TIME #1- GOODBYE YESTERDAY

Question:

What was a time where you saw someone's entire life/personality change completely, and they were never the same again? If not, how has knowing Jesus changed your life completely?

The Big Picture!

During this team time, we will be diving into Paul's life & transformation through Christ. At one point, he rejected Jesus, and even sought to destroy all people who were christians! He turned away from his past and NEVER looked back.

Preface of Scripture

Acts 7 is a picture of Paul's past, during this time before Paul was a follower of Jesus, his name was Saul. He was a passionate Jewish leader trying to live life HIS OWN WAY... he thought his purpose was to destroy christians. A way he did this was to stone Stephen, a christian who was defending Jesus.

Acts 7:54-60 (NLT) :

54 The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage.^[a] **55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. **56** And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"

57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him **58** and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.^[b]

59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **60** He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

Question:

How does the way Saul treated Stephen make you feel? Do you relate to any part of him or Stephen's role in this story?

Question:

In what ways do you live like Saul? How might you live against God and his plans for our lives?

Preface of scripture:

Paul is writing to the galatians here, describing how he came to know God, and how it changed EVERYTHING for him!

Galatians 1:11-17;22-24 (NLT)

11 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. **12** I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.^[a]

13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it. **14** I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him **16** to reveal his Son to me^[b] so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being.^[c] **17** Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away to Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.

22 And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn’t know me personally. **23** All they knew was that people were saying, “The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!” **24** And they praised God because of me.

After reading scripture:

We see a big change between Saul → who we now consider to be Paul. Paul tells about his life change. Looking at his story, it starts to show how God can even make our lives look completely different. Paul once had only his own desire for life, and then found a fulfilling purpose in JESUS! We can find purpose in God’s glory, instead of our own. We can live a life that reflects more of Jesus, and less of ourselves.

Question:

What does it look like to reflect less of you & more of Jesus?

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Challenge-

What in your life do you need to surrender to God TODAY? Make a list in your journal, notes app, or camp book! Today is the day where you can make the decision to follow Jesus WHOLE-HEARTEDLY!

TEAM TIME #2 - LET'S MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

Question:

What does your dream friend group look like? What do you think needs to happen to have a bond like that?

The Big Picture!

In these passages today, we will talk about how God uses Paul & silas TOGETHER to cause life change. As both Paul and Silas were in prison after they had been beaten. The story of Paul & Silas will show a clear image of God desiring us to live our lives surrendered & in community!

Preface of scripture

Paul & Silas were two believers of Christ, who were super excited about how Jesus changed everything for them. They traveled everywhere to spread this good news, but there were many people who did not like that they were teaching others about Jesus.

Acts 16:22-26 (NLT)

22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. **23** They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. **24** So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. **26** Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

Question:

Paul & Silas were wrongfully imprisoned because of their bold faith. How has the world around you responded to your faith?

Question:

When Paul & Silas were in prison, they actually allowed this undeserved circumstance to lead them to praising God together. What stops you from praising in an undeserved circumstance?

Preface of scripture:

Paul & Silas were two faithful and confident believers in the Lord, They continued to show God's Goodness through their actions which made the jailer want to surrender to the lord.

Continuing... Acts 16:27-30 (NLT)

27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew *his* sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. **28** But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" **29** And *the jailer* asked for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas; **30** and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Question:

How can we remove all pride or fear of living life for Jesus TOGETHER?

Question:

How can you and your friends show God's Love together... REGARDLESS of any tension, struggle, or bump in the road?

Challenge-

There is no room for pride or fear in togetherness, God desires us to be TOGETHER, not alone! Are you fighting this battle alone? Group up in pairs of 2 or 3 and make this person your accountability partner this week! (give an example for your students)

TEAM TIME #3- MERCY OF GOD

Question:

What is the Mercy of God?

The Big Picture!

Today we are seeking how God's mercy should bring us into a mindset of thankfulness for what He has done in our lives even when we fall short and don't deserve it. We will see how God has a plan that continues throughout our lives. As this plan is slowly revealed day by day, we can be thankful for who God is to us.

Preface of scripture:

In this passage, Paul is sharing his testimony, embracing that without the Mercy of God, he would be NOTHING.

1 Timothy 1:12-18

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, **13** even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. **14** Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

15 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. **16** But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. **17** All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.

Question:

How can you thank God for all that he has done for you just as Paul did in verse 14, when we didn't deserve it.

How has God been generous to you? (look closely at verse 12-14)

Question:

If we are undeserving of this, what is it that we DO deserve?

Question:

How have you seen God's Mercy be shown throughout your Life ?

How do you know it's God's Mercy? (Why don't you deserve it?)

take this moment to allow your group to share testimonies if you haven't already

After-note:

Through our struggles we can share God's truth and through that, God's mercy can be shown and shared with the people around us. This will allow glory, thankfulness, and praise to be given to God.

Challenge-

Take a moment to reflect on how God brought you through the good & the bad you have experienced in your life undeservingly.

Take a moment to reflect on the life change that has happened throughout your life, or even this WEEK!

Now, take a moment to give thanks to God for the mercies that have been given to you in your life.

How can we live with the perspective of his mercy each and every day?

TEAM TIME #4- It starts with YOU

Question:

What is God calling you to take hold of? What areas is he calling you to be more disciplined ?

Question:

How often do you take ownership of your own faith? What does it look like to own your faith?

The Big Picture!

Now it's time to take responsibility for our actions. In the things that God calls us to do, we can not throw those responsibilities on to others. Paul and Silas were freed from their chains and could have escaped; however, they took responsibility for being prisoners and let the jail guard know that they did not leave. Since they took on their responsibility for a moment, they were able to be an example and inspire the jail guard to give his life to Christ.

Preface of scripture

Paul is expressing his thankfulness to God for the philippians support of the good news during his imprisonment, and he is CONFIDENT that God will complete the Good that he started in YOU.

Philippians 1: 3-11(NLT)

3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. **7** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God

after reading scripture note

Even though our discipline might look hard, it is worth it! You would be surprised by how much your example can impact the life of another person. Own your faith, it starts with YOU!

Our hope and wish for your life is verses 9-11

Question:

How might you following through with your responsibilities as a disciple of Jesus Christ affect those around you?

Question:

What is the personal change that starts with YOU? This will be unique to what God is calling YOU to change.

After-note:

Through our struggles we can share God's truth and through that, God's mercy can be shown and shared with the people around us. This will allow glory, thankfulness, and praise to be given to God, which can lead those around you to knowing Jesus who saved you!

Challenge-

We have to stop blaming our mistakes, wrongdoings, and lack of faith on others. It is not your parents, pastors, or your peers responsibility to grow your faith & relationship with Jesus. **CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU!** What steps are you going to take when you come home from camp to continue the change God did in you this week?