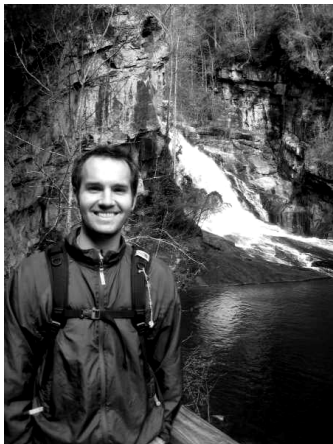




BURNED
STAFF

CONNECT
AFTER
CAMP
QUIET TIMES
2011

ABOUT THE WRITER



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Jamie currently resides outside of Atlanta, GA where he works with a non-profit ministry and serves as a private music instructor and professional vocalist. He received his Bachelor's degree from Shorter College in Music Education and his Master's degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Vocal Performance and Church Music. Over the past two years he has written materials for various devotional books and studies for First Baptist Church Woodstock where he was on the student ministry staff from 2008 until 2010. Jamie has served on Fuge staff as a Bible study leader, Development Director and Camp Director.

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DAY 1: NOW WHAT?

Welcome home! Hopefully, you made it home with a few new friends, AND a new understanding of your relationship with God and others.

Camp was pretty intense, wasn't it?

Take a moment and think about your favorite part of camp.

Was it Bible Study? Recreation? Worship? Tracks/Ministry Site? Maybe free time?!

Whatever your favorite time may have been, what about it changed your life for the better?

Read Isaiah 55:9-11.


According to verse 11, what will God's Word do?

God's Word will not return empty and His Word will accomplish what He pleases! That is a pretty incredible statement!

This passage demonstrates the power of God's Word in our lives. He says here in Isaiah that the words He sends out will accomplish what He intended them to accomplish.

What words did you hear from God this past week while you were at camp? Take time to write down four things that God spoke to you this past week.

What do you think God intended to accomplish with His words to you this week?



How do you think God would want those words to return to Him? Will they be empty when they come back?

He says here that they will not! Lives were changed this week at camp. YOUR life was changed this week at camp! No matter how much you may deny it, God changed your life this week by showing you how to have godly relationships.

Take time to answer these questions:

How did God teach you to relate to the lost this week?

Who specifically do you need to tell about Jesus and invite to church?

How did God teach you to relate to those in authority this week?

What authority in your life do you need to treat more like Jesus teaches? Be specific.

Read Isaiah 40:28-31. Rewrite this passage in your own words.

PRAYER TIME

Spend a few moments thanking God for giving you the opportunity to hear from Him this past week and for being your strength from Isaiah 40. Be specific about the things for which you are grateful: leaders, parents, friends, His Word, salvation.

Ask God to forgive you of the specific sins in your life that keep you from hearing His words and putting them into practice. Sometimes sins are hard to talk about, but God wants us to confess our sins to Him. Take time to do that now.

Pray that He would allow you opportunities this week to encounter lost people and share His love with them. Pray that He would give you the COURAGE to begin a conversation with them that will lead them to the truth of His love in their lives.

Pray that you will be faithful to those in authority and that you will represent Christ in all that you do.

Pray that His word would not return empty from you!

DAY 2: LOVE GOD AND OTHERS?

Read Matthew 22:37-40.

It was pretty easy to love all of your church friends this past week, wasn't it?? OK, maybe not! But, for most of us last week was a fun time together with lots of our good friends. We stayed up too late. We ate too much candy. We screamed too loud at Mega relay... happens every year!

Now you are home... with your family... who aren't nearly as fun as your friends, right?!

Do you think God only wants us to be loving and encouraging while we are at camp? Why or why not?

Think back to your church group devotion time. You probably participated in encouraging each other and celebrating decisions that you or your friends made during the week. Church group devotion time is intended to be a picture of the relationships that you should have ALL THE TIME! Not just while you are at camp.

In Matthew 22:37-40, we see that God wants us to love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind. That is a pretty tough thing to do! He wants us to love Him through the good times and the bad.

In the second section of that passage we see that God wants us to also love our neighbor just like we love ourselves. Sometimes, that is a pretty tough thing to do, too!

This past week we learned how to relate to our friends and family in a more Christ-honoring way.

Take a few minutes to write out the answers to these questions:

What evidence exists in your life that proves you love God with all of your heart, soul and mind? Be specific.

What are some areas that you need to work on to show that you love Him?

How have you shown your neighbors (friends and family) that you love them?

Be specific.



List 10 ways that you can love your friends and family that would be Christ- honoring.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Read Proverbs 3: 1-12. Underline in your Bible each action word in this passage. Write it below. Then, write the result of each as noted in the Scripture.

Keep my commands	Many days, full life, well-being

PRAYER TIME

Pray that God would make Proverbs 3 a model for your life. Ask Him to make loyalty and faithfulness part of your everyday life.

Pray that God would fill your heart with love for and obedience to Him.

Pray that God would free your soul and spirit to worship Him freely and joyfully. Pray that He would give you a desire to worship Him in everything you do.

Pray that God would put your mind on things that are Christ- honoring. Ask Him to remove impure thoughts from your mind and replace them with loving and obedient thoughts.

Pray that God would give you opportunities to show love and encouragement to your friends and family in the ways that you listed above.

Pray that God would be honored by your life and love for others.

DAY 3: READY FOR ACTION?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

Write down the three things in verse 13 that we are to do in response to our salvation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What does it mean to get your mind ready for action?

If we look at life like a sport, or better yet, as a battle, we have to prepare ourselves for what is out there waiting to beat us and take us down. Even as we read these words, the world is ready to claim us for itself and turn our minds and hearts toward material things, lust, greed and a whole lot of other things that are not in God's plan for our lives.

By preparing our minds for action and being obedient to God's word and plan for our life, we are protecting ourselves from the dangers that will come against us in life.

How do we get our mind ready? We pray. We read God's word. We surround ourselves with Christ-honoring friends and conversations.

The second part of verse 13 says that we are to be self-disciplined.

As growing, young Christians, it is our responsibility to OWN our faith. This means that we need to develop good habits of studying God's Word, confessing our sins and turning from them, and surrounding ourselves with Christ-honoring people that will build us up and not drag us down.

In being obedient and self-disciplined we show God that He has the most important part in our lives, and that He can trust us with responsibility and relationships. These relationships lead others to a deeper relationship with Christ; which brings glory to God!

The third part of verse 13 says that we are to set our hope completely on the grace that will be fully given when Christ returns.

Our world gives us bad news everyday. People let us down. Even our families sometimes fail us. This final part of verse 13 shows us that our hope should be placed COMPLETELY in the grace that will be made complete when Jesus is revealed from Heaven. We should not put our hope in people; or in wealth; or in talent or ability. The only true hope we have in this life is Christ and the grace that He showed on the cross for our sake.

Read 1 Peter 1:22.

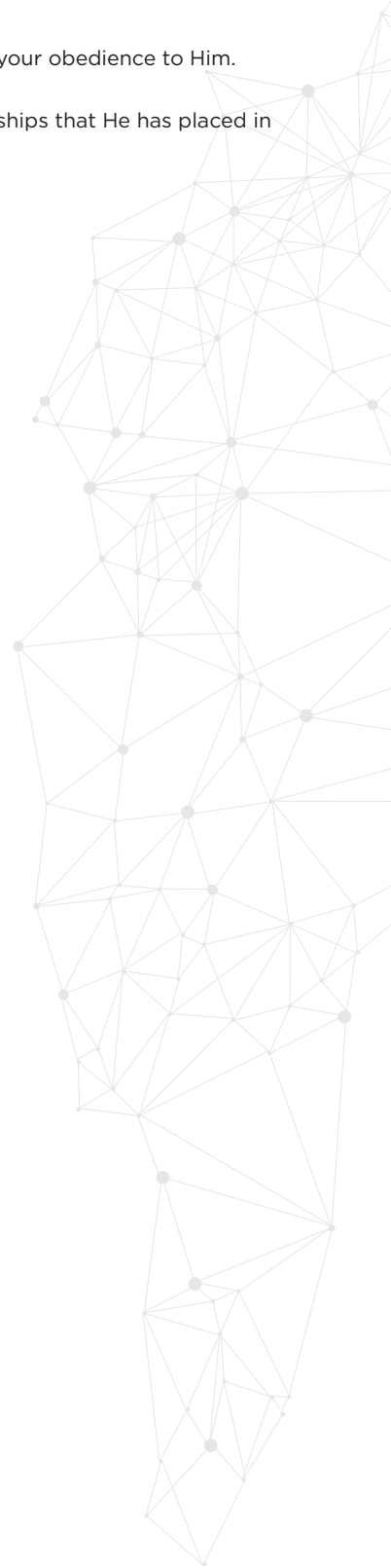
Now that we have seen how the three things mentioned in verse 13 can be applied to our lives, verse 22 shows us that obedience in these things leads to deeper love for those around us. These verses in 1 Peter are building blocks of making our relationships deeper and more meaningful. But, we have to clean up our act first.

PRAYER TIME

Pray that God would show you the areas of your life that need to be conformed to His word.

Pray that God would use what you learned in 1 Peter to deepen your obedience to Him.

Pray that God would use your obedience to deepen the relationships that He has placed in your life.



DAY 4: ARE YOU ALERT?

Read 1 Peter 5: 5-11.

Do you think the Devil ever takes a break?

The answer to that question is a definite NO! This passage in 1 Peter refers to the Devil as a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. That is a pretty intense picture. Imagine if you had a lion literally following you around all day, waiting for you to make one little mistake; waiting for you to slip up on one little thing so that he could make his move and make YOU his next snack! That would not be a very easy life, now would it?

The point that Peter is trying to make to the readers of this letter: Be Sober! Be on alert!

In our modern times, "sober" has come to be a word associated almost always with alcohol or drugs, but in this original context, the word sober simply meant to be clear of mind and sound in judgment.

No matter if you are in 6th grade or have just graduated from 12th grade, this warning from 1 Peter is a great message to take to heart.

When you were at camp it was pretty easy (for most of you) to be sober and alert, but now that you are home it may be different.

How do you do it?

I'm glad you asked!

In verse 5 we see two different ways to help you on this journey of being sober and alert:

1. Be subject to the elders.
2. Clothe yourselves in humility.

What do you think these mean?

Write a couple of sentences on *being subject to elders*.

What do you think it means to *clothe yourself in humility*? Write a couple of sentences on how to clothe your life in humility.

When we truly humble ourselves and submit to the authority of those God has placed in spiritual leadership in our lives, verse 6 tells us that God will exalt us in due time.

You see, God has already planned each one of your steps for you. He has already seen the incredible things He has for your life. But, when we step outside of God's plan for us, and when we choose to be arrogant and to not be alert or sober; or when we are not submissive to spiritual leadership in our lives, we run the risk of missing the good things God has for us.

That is a pretty big lesson to take in for students your age. BUT, God has full confidence in the intelligence that He has entrusted to you- even if you are still in middle and high school. Don't let the world tell you that you are too young to understand such large things.

Read Proverbs 2:1-8. Count the number of times wisdom or other words referring to wisdom are used in this passage. How many times did you find? _____

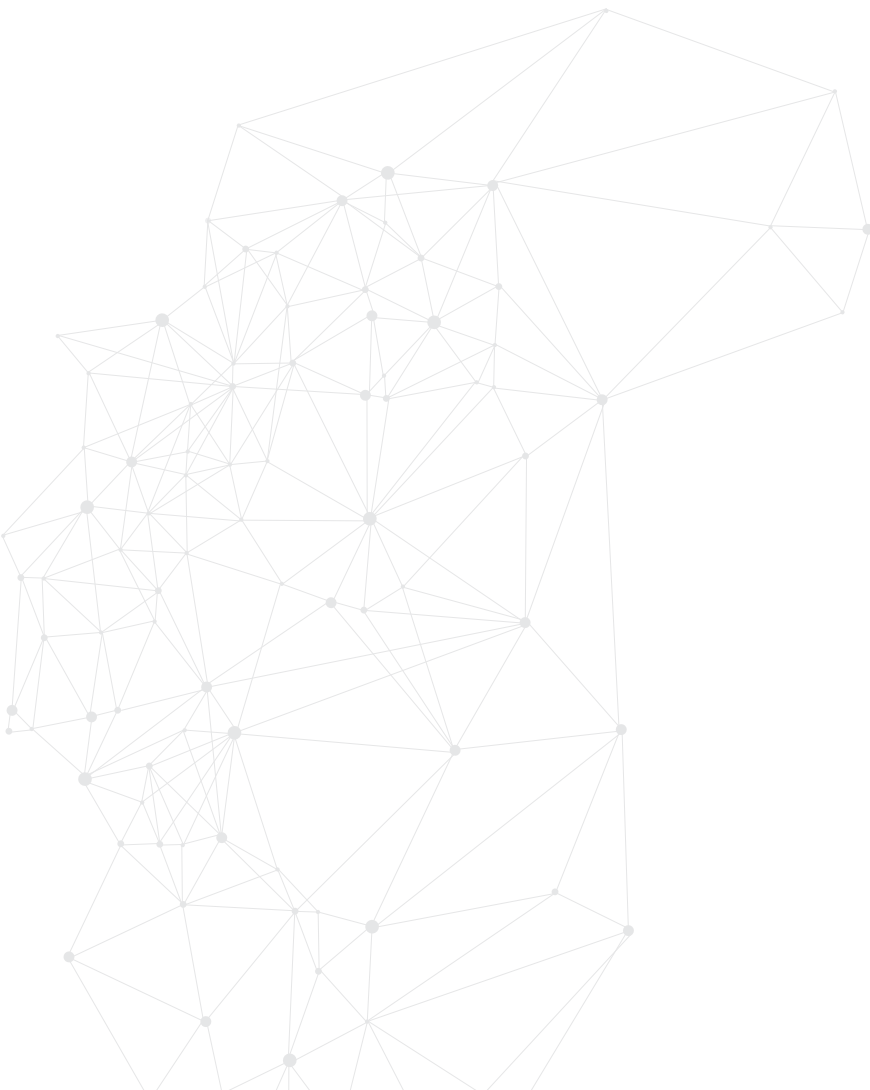
What is wisdom's worth?

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for His faithfulness in specific areas of your life.

Ask God to keep you sober in your daily walk with Him. Be specific in the areas that you know will be difficult for you today and everyday. God loves specific prayer.

Ask that God would help you seek wisdom like "hidden treasure" (Pro. 2:4).



DAY 5: WHAT'S NEXT?

Now that you have come to the final day of the quiet times in this book, what should you do next?

If you want to be equipped for the work that God has for you, the Bible needs to be a big part of the next steps that you take.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Scripture says here in 2 Timothy that the Word of God should be used in lots of different ways as we prepare for the life that God has laid out before us.

Write down the four things in verse 16 for which Scripture can be used, and what you think each of them mean.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

We have all experienced each of these in different areas of our lives. We have been taught at school. We have been rebuked (scolded) at home for being disrespectful or having bad behavior. We have been corrected when we use bad grammar or the wrong word for something. And, we have been trained for something- whether it was riding a bike or playing a sport. These things are a part of our lives.

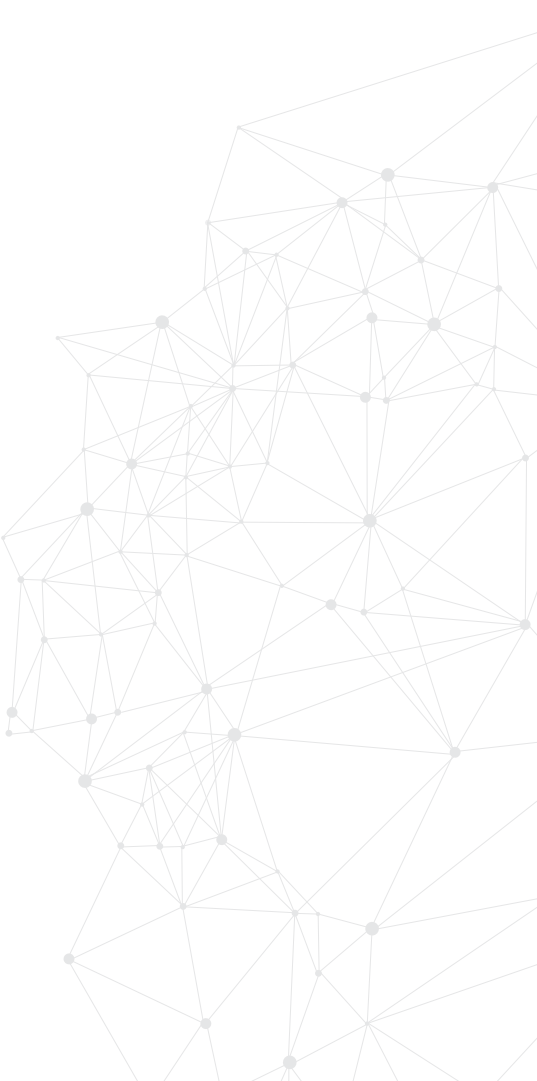
Have you ever let Scripture change your actions, thoughts or speech in these ways?


Write down a time when Scripture has taught you; rebuked you; corrected you and trained you. Give an example of each.

It may be difficult for you to think of a time when Scripture has performed one of these actions in your life. If that is the case, or if Scripture plays only a small role in these areas, you have a need for Scripture to be a teacher, rebuker, corrector and trainer in your life.

Verse 17 says that when we allow Scripture to play these roles in our lives we are on our way to being COMPLETE and EQUIPPED for every good work God has for us.

No matter how many teachers, parents or friends we have around us, there can never be a substitute for Scripture in our lives.





Now that you have finished these quiet times it is going to be INCREDIBLY important for you to find a reading plan or devotional book that will help you continue to walk through the Bible as you grow in your faith.

If you don't know where to start here are a few suggestions:

1. Start by reading the book of John while you are looking for a plan. (Then Matthew, Mark and Luke if it takes you a while to find a good plan!)
2. Ask your parents and youth leaders for help finding a plan. Check out one resource we recommend- *essential connection (ec): a daily devotion for students*. Go to lifeway.com and search essential connection.
3. Ask your friends and family to read along with you in a plan! This will give you great opportunities for discussion, accountability and growth!

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for His faithfulness in giving us His Holy Word. Thank Him for giving us the tools we need to follow His plan for our lives.

Ask God to help you study His word on a regular basis and open your eyes and heart to the truths held in His Scriptures.