

Counselor Training | More than being awesome

Gospel (“the GOOD NEWS”) – that God created everything in perfect rhythm and purpose but because of sin we are born broken and the universe is fractured. Romans 6:23 says that the due consequences of sin is death. And this isn’t just eternal death & separation from God, but its death to everything we know. We chase things that can never satisfy us and we idolize things that will never fully bring us joy. We continue to make other things ultimate rather than God and therefore find ourselves desperately frustrated and lost. But God, not based on anything that we do or any “goodness” of ourselves, but in his grace and mercy, has saved you from this brokenness and poured out every deserving wrath meant for you onto his Son Jesus Christ. And the Gospel is that we come as we are – broken and dirty – and Jesus cleans us and restores the original rhythm into our lives. It is only by his life and his death that we stand justified (declared free) and righteous before an almighty God. We have not earned our right standing nor could we ever be “good enough”. This right standing was afforded to us by a real historical person and a real, living God - Jesus. We, therefore, follow Jesus wherever he may lead – through uncertainty, through his appointed leaders, through his Word found in Scripture. And this is the foundation of our depth and everything else. ..this is the joy that we seek (John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”)

Your Role:

1. Ephesians 4:11-14 ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
2. **Depth:** Church cannot be just about Sundays or Friday nights. We are not interested in growing the youth group wide, we are concerned with the depth. In John 10:10, Jesus hands out an amazing offer - he goes “Hey, I’ve come to give you the best possible life”. We believe that you can exist and even enjoy life, but outside of Christ you miss the greater reality behind all things. At the end of the day, we want our group to get out of the shallow end of the pool and swim in the deep end of the ocean. We get depth in our group by the following: community, truth, service, and discipleship. I think there are too many people who play the church game of coming and attending and thinking that’s the extent of the Christian life. We come to church to celebrate, to learn and feed, but in the end it goes well beyond just coming to church. If we are truly called by God and understand that there’s a greater reality out there that’s bigger than us, then we’re called to something more glorious right? (Eph. 1:18). This should excite us - that the God who created the heavens and earth, the God who commands all living things, the God who invented crème brulee, invites you and me to play.
3. **Root Issues:** What I’ve learned in my years of working with youth is that this generation has a ton of baggage. And many of them manifest this baggage by a myriad of ways – religion, apathy, isolation, academics, drugs, cutting, eating disorders, occultism, etc. And I know a lot of us don’t know to really deal with this stuff but here’s the thing...many problems are very surface. There is always a root issue that causes behavior. Our job as counselors is to address the root issues. Typically, it starts with the heart and the main thing is pride. Learn how to recognize this in your students and help them come to realization of it. Also, many of your students are going to be coming out of broken or dysfunctional homes. And I know that camp is usually a time to escape the problems at home...but you can’t afford to NOT address them. The reality of it all is that they’re going straight back into the mess they’ve come from. Your job is to

expose the root cause of whatever is going on in their lives and then push them to either recovery or discipleship.

Questions you need to ask:

- Do I personally know this Gospel? Do I honestly and faithfully follow Jesus?
- What are some areas of my life that I know I need to repent of? Who do I need to go talk and confess these things with?
- Do I know my basic doctrines & theology? Can I explain basic terms like justification, discipleship, sin, eternal security, salvation, inerrancy of scripture, etc?
- What are some things I have been neglecting spiritually?
- Have I been praying for my future campers – that God might save them and grow them deep?

Resources:

- www.cbc-youth.com
- <http://theresurgence.com>
- <http://www.desiringgod.org>
- "Christian Beliefs" by Wayne Grudem
- "Don't Waste Your Life" by John Piper
- "UnChristian" By David Kinnaman
- "The Reason for God" by Timothy Keller
- "Orthodoxy" by G.K. Chesterton
- "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer
- "Essential Church" by Thom Rainer
- "Vintage Church" by Mark Driscoll
- "Church History in Plain Language" by Bruce Shelley
- "Turning Points" by Mark Noll
- www.equip.org
- <http://www.covlife.org/resources>
- <http://www.swbts.edu/>
- <http://www.dts.edu/>
- "How to read the bible for all its worth" by Gordon Fee
- "Grasping God's Word" by J. Scott Duvall
- "Systematic Theology" by Wayne Grudem
- "City of God" by St. Augustine
- "Desiring God" by John Piper