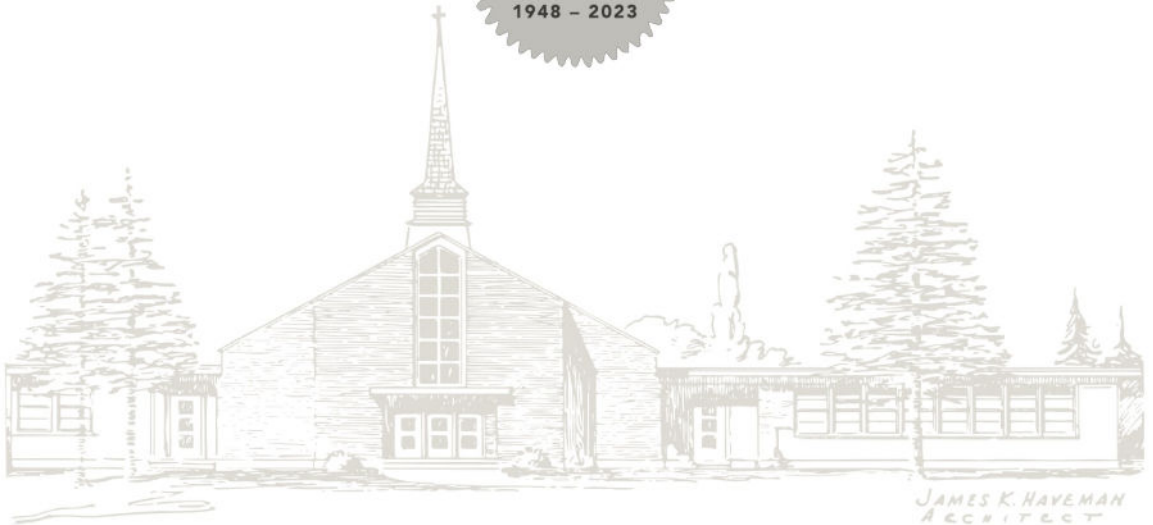


CAMP GENEVA

Echo

Summer 2023



Shores Bible Study

Monday: God is faithful to His promises.

Our theme at Camp Geneva this week is Echo, and our theme verse is Zephaniah 3:17! Each day of the Bible Study this week, we will talk about a line of the theme verse. Today, we're going to talk about the theme verse as a whole.

“The Lord your God is with you,
He is a Mighty Savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will calm you in His love;
He will sing and be joyful about you.”
Zephaniah 3:17

1. Create a list of all of the things this verse says about God.
2. Which line of the verse stands out to you the most? Why?
3. This week we will be focusing on God's faithfulness. What does faithfulness mean?

Someone who is faithful is someone you can count on. They do what they say they're going to do. When God makes a promise to His people, he keeps it, and follows through on it, again and again.

4. Our theme this week at Geneva is Echo. What is an echo? How does an echo relate to faithfulness?

The same way that sound echoes, God's faithfulness – or His trustworthiness – echoes. God's love remains constant to be heard, seen, and felt by those who believe in Him over generations and generations.

Activity time! Think about one thing you want to grow in or achieve this week at camp. It could be to make new friends, it could be to read the Bible more, it could be to spend more time in prayer – write a goal that you can do this week with the knowledge that God, your counselor, and your cabin-mates will support you and be faithful to you as you grow. Write your goal here, in your Bible Study, for you to look at and remember. Write it again on a piece of paper your counselor will give to you. Once you're done, give your paper back to your counselor so that they can check in on how you're doing with your goal throughout the week.

Now, we're going to look at the story of Abram, a man who lived a long time ago. God made a promise to him that we still see the echoes of today.

Read Genesis 12:1-3.

5. Fill in the blanks of the "I will" statements God says to Abram.

"I will make you into a _____ and I will bless you.

I will make your _____ and you will be a blessing.

I will _____ those who _____ you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

And _____ on earth will be blessed through you.”

6. Are those big promises or little promises? Do you know of any people who could keep those promises to Abram?

God made a promise to Abram, and He kept it and continues to keep it. In the next story, taking place hundreds of years later, we will look at how God keeps this promise to Abram through his children, the Israelites, or, the Hebrews, even after generations and generations.

Your counselor will read for you this next story! Listen closely and picture it in your head.

Read Exodus 1:6-22.

7. What “I will” statements from question 5 does God follow through on in this story?

8. How do you think the Israelites felt about God keeping His promise?

Read Exodus 2:1-10.

9. How do you think Moses’ family felt when they put Moses in the basket? How was God faithful to Moses and Moses’ family?

10. Have you ever felt like you don't know how something will work out? Why can we count on God and trust Him when we are worried or scared?

Pray the ACTS prayer with your cabin.

A—Adoration: Pray about what you love about God.

C—Confession: Tell God you're sorry for mistakes you have made.

T—Thanksgiving: Say things you are thankful for.

S—Stuff: Ask God for things you want or need.

Monday Night Time Devos

1. *What was your favorite part of today? Share with your cabin.*

2. *Reflect on the goal you made earlier today. How did you work towards your goal today? What can you do to work towards your goal tomorrow?*

Read Zephaniah 3:17.

*“The Lord your God is with you,
He is a Mighty Savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will calm you in His love;
He will sing and be joyful about you.”
Zephaniah 3:17*

3. *As a cabin, try to memorize this verse. Come up with motions, or a song, or a drawing to remind you of the verse.*

4. *Pray.*

Tuesday: God is with us.

Read Exodus 3:1-15.

1. Why is Moses in the wilderness at the beginning of this story?

2. What did Moses see when he was in the wilderness?

3. What happens when Moses approaches the bush?

Draw a picture of what you think the bush looked like.

4. What does God promise to Moses in verse 8?

5. Why do God's people, the Israelites, need to be rescued?

6. What does God promise to Moses in verse 12?

7. How do you think Moses was feeling about audibly hearing God?

8. Do you think God was present with Moses before this? How was that the same or different than this moment with the burning bush?

Read Daniel 3:8-28

10. Act out the story, no real fire allowed please.

11. Why did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego get thrown in the fire?

12. Re-read vv. 17-18. Do you think Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were sure that God would save them from the fire?

13. How do Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survive the fire?

14. How did King Nebuchadnezzar react to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego surviving?

15. Do you think God was only with them when they were in the fire? How was that the same or different than this moment in the furnace?

16. How was God present in these stories? How is God present now, in your story?

17. What do these stories tell us about who God is?

18. God was present in the fire in both stories, but we can't always see God with us. Why can we have confidence in his presence when we can't see him or feel him?

Pray a squeeze prayer. Make a circle with your cabin and hold hands. Your counselor will start by praying, and will squeeze the next person's hand. That person may pray or pass and when they are done, squeeze the next person's hand. Keep going until you make it around the circle once.

Tuesday Night Time Devos

1. Reflect on your goal. How did you work towards your goal today? What can you do to work towards your goal tomorrow?

Read John 1:1-9.

2. What is the Word? What does the Word do?

3. Who is the light?

4. What was John sent to do and what does that mean?

5. In the same way that John was a witness to the light of Jesus, we also are witnesses to the light of Jesus and carry our own stories of God's faithfulness and presence. Write down some times that you have been a witness to the light of Jesus in your life, or areas in which you hope to see the light of Jesus.

6. Pray.

Wednesday: God is a mighty Savior.

“The Lord your God is with you,
He is a mighty Savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will calm you in His love;
He will sing and be joyful about you”.
Zephaniah 3:17

Your counselor will read the story of Lazarus, Jesus’ friend.

Read John 11:1-44.

1. List the people in this story.

2. Act out the story.

3. Talk about the following questions with your cabin: What did it feel like to be these characters? How do you think Jesus felt? How do you think His disciples felt? How do you think Mary and Martha felt? How do you think Lazarus felt?

4. What did the people think Jesus could have done for Lazarus?

5. What did the people think He could not do?

6. In verse 25, Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life”. What does this mean He could do for Lazarus?

7. How did Jesus feel when He saw the tomb of Lazarus? Are you surprised by His reaction?

8. What happened to Lazarus when Jesus came to his tomb?

9. Do you think Lazarus died again? What does it mean when Jesus says “whoever lives by believing in me will never die”?

Lazarus could not come back from the dead by himself, and Jesus saved him from death. But death is not the only thing that Jesus saves us from – in our everyday, Jesus works in mighty ways like in this story to save us from sin.

10. What is sin? Talk about it with your cabin.

James 1:14-15 talks about sin in this way:

“... Each person is tempted by their own evil desires. These desires lead them on and drag them away. When these desires are allowed to remain, they lead to sin. And when sin is allowed to remain and grow, it leads to death.”

11. What are the consequences of sin?

12. What are the things, or desires, that drag us away from God?

13. How is Lazarus saved from death in this story? How are we saved from sin and death?

14. Once we are saved from our sins, do we sin again? How does our connection to sin change when we are saved by Jesus?

Now, your counselor will lead you in a prayer of confession. A prayer of confession is a practice Christians have used for thousands of years to talk to God about their sins and feelings of guilt. Even if you don't have a specific sin that's really bugging you, you can do a prayer of confession because we've all sinned.

Dear God, we are sorry for our sins with all of our hearts. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, we have sinned against you whom we should love above all things. We firmly intend, with your help, to avoid sin, whatever leads us to sin, and to live in obedience to you. Thank you for our Savior Jesus Christ who saved us from sin and died for us. Amen.

15. Tomorrow, we will talk about repentance. Repentance means turning away from sin and towards God. How do we turn towards God in everyday life?

Wednesday Night Time Devos

1. Reflect on your goal. How did you work towards your goal today? What can you do to work towards your goal tomorrow?

Your counselor will read Luke 5:17-26.

2. How do you think the paralyzed man was feeling throughout the story?

3. What did Jesus do first when he saw the man being lowered through the roof?

4. Why did Jesus forgive the man's sins first, and then cure the man?

5. Write down a question you have on slips of paper that your counselor gives you, either about tonight, about Jesus in general, or about anything else you're wondering about God and the Bible. Your counselor will do their best to answer, but know that it's okay to have big questions that don't have answers that we can know!

6. Pray.

Thursday: God is joyful about being in relationship with us.

In today's Bible study, Jesus tells a parable. A parable is a short story told by Jesus that tells the people who are listening something about God or God's kingdom.

Read Luke 15:1-7.

1. In verses 1 and 2, who was listening to Jesus?

2. Why were the Pharisees and teachers of the law/scribes upset?

3. What does Jesus do in response?

4. Match the words to the fill-in-the-blank.

WORD BANK: joyful, us, Jesus, ninety-nine

The shepherd is _____.

The sheep are _____.

The shepherd leaves the _____ to find the lost sheep.

The shepherd is _____ when he finds the lost sheep.

5. What does the shepherd do when he takes the lost sheep home?

6. What is the relationship between a shepherd and their sheep?

7. How is Jesus like the shepherd?

8. What do you think makes Jesus different from the shepherd?

9. If God is always with us, why do you think God/the shepherd needs to find us?

10. Read verse 7 again. What do you think it means to repent? What does it look like?

11. How does repentance affect our relationship with God?

12. How does repentance make God feel?

13. When do you feel joy? How do you express joy?

14. What do you think are some things that make God joyful? How do you think God expresses joy?

15. What can we do in response to God expressing joy about us?

Pray a popcorn prayer. Your counselor will open in prayer, and you may pop in whenever (like popcorn!) with a prayer. After a few people (or everybody!) pray, your counselor will close the prayer.

Thursday Night Time Devos

1. Reflect on your goal. How did you work towards your goal today? What can you do to work towards your goal tomorrow?

Read Luke 2:1-20.

2. Who went to go see Jesus in this story? Why did they go to see Jesus?

3. What did the shepherds do when they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?

4. God promised that a great king would come to rule and bring peace, and this person would be called the Christ, or the chosen one. Jesus was born in a manger, which is a type of trough for animals to eat food out of. What is the significance of Jesus being born here?

5. As a cabin, celebrate that Jesus came to be in relationship with us. Act out the Christmas story, sing a carol, or do an act of service together!

6. Pray.

Friday: God will calm you in His love.

Read Mark 4:35-41.

1. Draw a picture of the beginning of the story.

2. Circle how you think the disciples felt when the storm came.

Nervous Itchy Scared Happy

Excited Calm Wet

3. How do you think Jesus was feeling when the storm came?

4. What did the disciples say to Jesus to wake Him up?

5. What did the disciples know about Jesus that led them to wake Him up? Why did they go to Jesus?

6. How did Jesus calm the storm? Did it work? Why?

7. Why did Jesus calm the storm?

8. How did the disciples feel after Jesus calmed the storm?

9. Read v. 41 and think about what the disciples said. Rephrase it in your own words. What does it say about the power of Jesus?

10. This story also happens in Matthew and Luke, and the end is slightly different. Read Matthew 8:27 and Luke 8:25. How do these stories say the disciples felt after Jesus calmed the storm? How would you feel if you were in a similar situation?

11. What is your first reaction when something is scary? How does hearing this story and other stories about Jesus' faithfulness affect that?

12. Think about the Birth of Moses and the Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego story from earlier this week. Flip back if you need to. How can we trust that God is with us when it's difficult or scary?

Sometimes the storm doesn't go away – sometimes it's something that we weather alongside Jesus, with His presence as a calming force. Your counselor will lead you in a prayer for Jesus to come alongside you in whatever storm you're in.

Read Zephaniah 3:17.

“The Lord your God is with you,
He is a Mighty Savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
He will calm you in His love;
He will sing and be joyful about you.”
Zephaniah 3:17

13. What part of this verse stands out to you now? Write your own definition of faithfulness now, having heard the stories from Bible Study this week.

14. Reflect on your goal that you made this week. How did you do? How did the people in your cabin support you? How did God support you?

Write a goal for after camp. It can be the week after, the month after, the year after, but something that you can follow through with. Share this goal with your cabin and pray for each other's goals and for this week of camp.

Friday Night Time Devos

1. Reflect on your new goal that you made today during Bible study. What will help you succeed in your goal? Who can you go to for help and support?

2. Think about this week at camp. What was your favorite part?

3. What did you learn at camp this week?

Tonight, we're returning to Moses, who we talked about at the beginning of the week. God made a promise to the Israelites that He would rescue them. In this passage, God tells them to remember what God did for them and to look forward to what God promises and will continue to do.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-9.

4. The Israelites are told to "remember how the Lord has led them all the way". In the Bible, there are many times where people remember what God has done for them, which reminds them of who God is and what He is doing. Take some time and think about what God did at camp this week, big or small. Write down some of these things.

5. God told the Israelites He is bringing them into a good land – something they had been expecting for a long time. What is something that you are hoping God will do, or keep on doing, in your life? You might think of some of the promises from our theme verse!

6. Pray.

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