

MWBC SENIOR WEEK 2017

what are you

WINNING

for?

Nerves settled in as I drove up to camp last Saturday. As time passes, this place feels more and more like home and this year I felt like I was returning home as someone new. The change that has happened in my life and my heart since I last stepped foot on these grounds was striking in comparison to how I have felt and have been in all the years past. I always feel change the strongest in my return. Entering these gates, I looked on with new eyes.

Senior Week, thank you for always laughing with me and praying and learning. Thank you for letting me judge your cabin presentations and tell you dumb stuff like, “one cookie, one peanut,” while I was serving you in line. Thank you for being here and being present and for sharing in these moments. Thank you for allowing me — and everyone — to be as I am. Thank you for always being home, even when I feel different from who I’ve been.

Here’s what I saw and here’s what I learned.

Megan Madison

# WHAT'S MISSING?

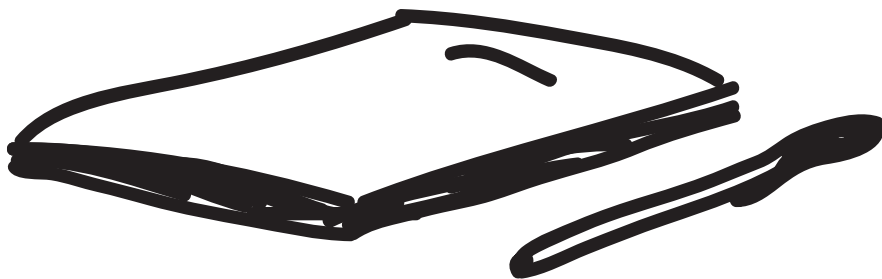


DAY 1 / SATURDAY

We're all a little timid on the first Saturday. An entire week is ahead of us and it's full of mystery and possibility, of growth and change, of and learning and wondering. Saturdays ask the question of what is to come and we often try to answer it before it's even begun. All at once, it is both terrifying and exciting. Every Saturday, we're asked to reflect.

# REFLECTIONS

1. Where are you at in your life right now?
2. What's missing?



“I believe that if you're here, God wants you to be here and he's got something great in store for us.”

## SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE, JASON HAWKINS

“Our theme this year for Senior Week is what are you living for? There’s kind of a double meaning to this. One of the meanings is answering the question of what your life’s purpose is or what your life goal is. But if you think about it, there’s also a different slant you can take on this. Growing up, I got the feeling that life was about following certain steps and certain procedures and just making a decision to give my life to God and get baptized. Beyond that, life was basically about hoping you would go to heaven because you didn’t want to go to the other place. So life was about behaving well and doing what God wants you to and waiting until you eventually got to heaven. And at some point I wondered to myself: if it’s just about me making a decision and then waiting for something great called heaven, why don’t we just die when we’re baptized? I mean, wouldn’t that be a better plan? Life gets hard and we go through all this difficulty...if all God wants to do is get us to this far away, later place called heaven...what are we living for? We’re jumping off tonight with the idea that there’s got to be something more than that. There’s got to be something better for our lives than just waiting for something else that’s far and later. Especially considering that the person we claim we follow talked about the kingdom of heaven as being here. The kingdom is now, it’s arrived. I’m going to challenge you with this as we go into the week: what if God wants so much more for your life right now than just waiting and being good. I think one of the most fascinating and important things Jesus said was:

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)*

Some translations say a rich and satisfying life. The way he talks about life and the kingdom of heaven, I get the strong sense that God has a lot more in store for our lives than just being good and waiting around for something else. I think a rich and satisfying life is what we’re supposed to be experiencing in some way. And when we ask the question of if there is something better than this, I think Jesus would say “Yeah.” And that’s part of what I want to challenge you on tonight: would you describe the life you’re living as life to the full? Would you say the impact that knowing God and knowing Jesus has had on you has led to a rich and satisfying life to the full? I can’t answer that for you guys, but I know that for a lot of my life with Christ, that isn’t how I would describe it and I still struggle with that. Can I really accurately say that because of Jesus, I have a life to the full? But I am convinced that he can give us that. So we ask if something is missing — if we’ve missed some crucial teaching of Christ. I think sometimes what happens is we get tastes and glimpses and we almost only expect to. Like we come out to camp and it’s going to be great but then the rest of the year is going to suck but when I come back, it’s going to be great again. Or maybe I’ll throw something else in during the year so I can have a rich and satisfying life for a moment, but pretty much, just because of how life is, it’s supposed to suck. So as we start our week: What are you living for? Whatever it is, is it what you were created to live for? Is it what Jesus died for you to live for? And I think a great way for you to answer that question is to ask: is it giving me life to the full? So that’s what we’re going to delve into this week.”



# WHERE WE GOT IT WRONG



DAY 2 / SUNDAY

Sunday morning is waking up in a camp bunkbed and remembering that you are here, that you've pulled yourself up from your comfortable roots and immersed yourself into a week of challenge and constantly being put out of your comfort zone. Sunday is our expectations beginning to crumble.

On Sunday, we spoke about how we got it wrong.

“FOR SOME REASON WE THINK IT’S ALL ABOUT FIGURING OUT  
EXACTLY WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO AND THEN CHECKING OFF ALL  
THE BOXES.”

“BY LOVING OTHERS, WE ARE LOVING GOD.”



## SUNDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE

We gathered for a campfire in the shelter house on Sunday and Todd opened up a conversation about wrong views we have of God. He began by reading the story of the prodigal son. Kara shared with us her view of fathers: "My dad abandoned us when we were really small, he had made a point in his life to choose his addictions over me and my brother. This nurtured in me the feeling that I wasn't enough for him. I would try to excel at everything and take on every leadership role just to somehow be enough for him and I never was. Without realizing it, I put a lot of those expectations on God as well about how I had to be perfect and I needed to be enough for him. But I felt like I was a disappointment to God, which made it hard for me to pray and feel like I was worth listening to. It has made it hard for me to study and accept that the love of God is freely given. It is a revelation and continues to be a revelation in my life to know that God is not like my father. God is like the prodigal son's father. He loves me whether I am doing everything right or whether I am a complete mess and actively running in the other direction. what he wants for me is not a list of accolades or a checklist to show him that I'm trying hard. He just wants to have me close. I'm so grateful that even though my earthly father was not someone I got to experience that kind of love with that I get to experience such a great love with my father in heaven."

Next, Morgan read us a story similar to the prodigal son story, but in this one, the father leaves one night. The first son stays to toil on the land. The second son goes out and squanders all of his money only to realize the error of his ways and return home to wait for the father to return.

Seth shared: "I grew up in a household where my dad was pretty absent because he chose his addiction over my mom and his children. I saw him occasionally, but it never lasted long and I felt that abandonment of a father. For most of my life, I would say that I chose to ignore that abandonment and live in an amnesia. I didn't want to know God because I thought he was a father that would abandon you. I associated God and my father with pain and this numbness because I didn't want to deal with it. I felt worthless and empty like the son did when he was in the pen of animals. For the longest time, I thought God would never find me worthy until I realized that he wasn't like the father who abandoned me. I made an active choice to pursue falling in love with a father who loved me back."

Carson invited the camp to partake in communion and make a choice about how to view God: "There's a choice you can make at the beginning of this week as far as the way you see this father. This God to you may be someone who is demanding perfection from you or maybe you see God as someone who has been absent, as someone who hasn't shown up, who really hasn't been there. Maybe God to you his this idea of being oppressive. Maybe you associate pain with knowing God because you've experienced pain in religion or you've felt judged in the past or maybe it's just hard feeling like God is really there at all right now. But we're asking you to make a really simple choice tonight. The choice we're asking you to make during communion tonight is this: will you choose to hear what God has to say about who he is this week? That we're no longer going to base this on our past experience or things that we've done or things that have been done to you. Are you willing to choose to listen to what God has to say about who he is this week/ To take that risk and say: "God I want to find out who this father is. I want to find out who you are for real. Not what I've been holding on to, not what I've been thinking who you are."



# THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM



DAY 3 / MONDAY

“WHEN DID YOUR FAITH BECOME SO SMALL THAT YOU STOPPED BELIEVING IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT?”

“I’M A LIVING SACRIFICE RIGHT HERE IN THIS MOMENT.”

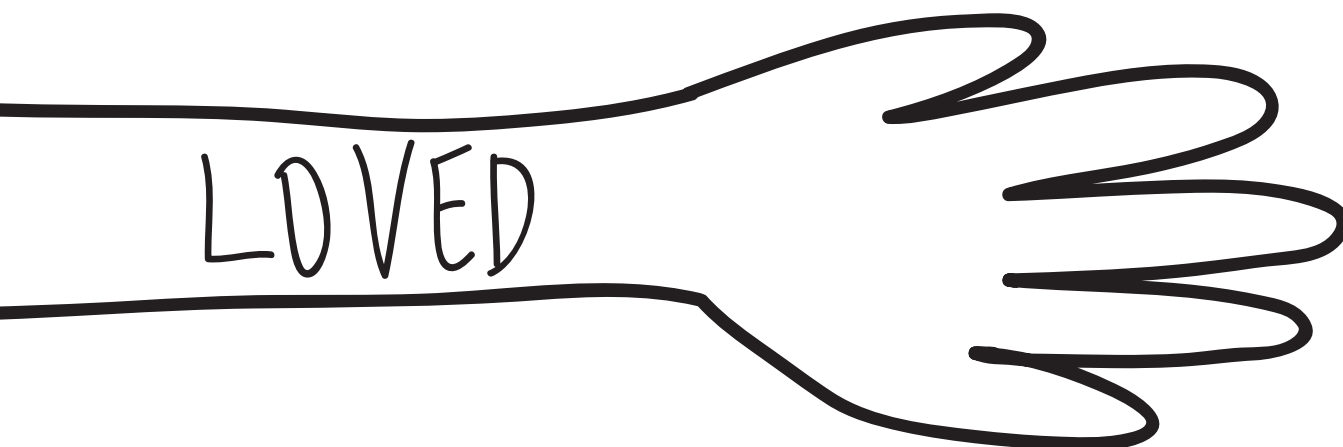
For Monday night’s campfire, we began around the campfire ring where Seth shared with us the emptiness he felt growing up.

“Take one moment and think about what destruction looks like. If Christ came to show us what the right side of the kingdom looks like, if he came to show life to the full, what I was experiencing before I knew him was emptiness, which was a result of destruction. And I thought I was messed up because of it.”

Moving into the trophy room with a somber air hanging overhead, Cason shared with us the feelings of loneliness he felt and how sharing his struggle was what finally made him no longer feel alone.

“In that moment, what I knew to be true, that I was worthless and helpless and a loser and that God didn’t love me, all those things that I was holding on to and was just convinced to be true vanished because somebody else looked me in the face and said, ‘I’ve got an issue.’ In his confession, I felt free because I was able to say, ‘me too.’ We convince ourselves that if anybody knows what you’re struggling with, they’re not going to love you. But the truth is that you’re actually going to find more love and build better relationships.”

Monday concluded with mess night back in the cabins.



# THE LAW OF LOVE



DAY 4 / TUESDAY

I find the morning after mess night really beautiful. Trust and love and cabin bonds are so clear and strong. I think Tuesday is the day when we feel the first breaths of that year's new community. On Tuesday, having built a community centered around deep love and trust, we wrestled with the idea of the law of love.

“LAWS DON'T LIMIT ME, THEY ALLOW ME TO BE GREATER.”

“LAWS GIVE US A STANDARD FOR HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE.”

“IF WE DON'T SEE THE LAW THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS, WE'LL SEE JESUS THROUGH THE LAW.”



## AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

Matthew 7:7-11 • God answers prayers constantly. Every hour, every day, all the time. But when he does, do we acknowledge it? Many times, we are good at approaching God with our concerns, but a no-show when it comes to expressing gratitude.

## GLOBAL PRAYER

Matthew 25:34-46 • “The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” The hungry, The homeless, The attacked, The soldiers who witness violence, The persecuted, The forgotten, The unloved, The fatherless, The widows, The orphans, Those without community or friendship. LIGHT, OH GLORIOUS LIGHT, I WILL GO WHERE YOU SHINE, BLESS MY FEET AS I CARRY YOUR LIGHT TO THE WORLD BLESS MY HANDS TO REACH THOSE WHO ARE HURTING LET ME SEEK THE LEAST OF THESE SO I MAY SERVE YOU.







## LETTER TO GOD

“As the father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.” Take a moment to pray to God silently. Thank him for the ways he has blessed you. Thank Him for the blessings that you see and the blessings that are unseen.

## YOU KNOW ME

Sometimes it is difficult to navigate our own thoughts, feelings, and emotions. Our hearts are complicated, burdened with the troubles of this life. Luckily, there is a Heavenly Father who made you and designed your heart by hand. He knows you better than you know yourself. • Psalm 139



## THE TABLE

It wasn't my own good works that removed my sins. It wasn't my work that earned your grace. It was your decision to love me. It was your son, Jesus, who gives us grace we don't deserve.

## ON BENDED KNEE

1 Corinthians 1:29 • The Holy Spirit doesn't just live in our hearts; the Spirit inhabits our entire body. We can experience the Spirit in different ways by taking different postures with our bodies during prayer.

## PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

“Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.”

## NEVER RUNS OUT ON ME

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love.” • Whether it is your relationships, the majesty of a sunset, a moment of mercy you experienced, or a time when you deserved anger, but instead, received love, God's abundant love is all around us.



## RECONCILIATION

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” • “God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them.”



# THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER



DAY 5 / WEDNESDAY

## MORNING: 14 HOURS OF PRAYER

14 hours of prayer is one of my favorite days. I think there's a simple beauty in knowing that all day long, in a small corner of camp that is hidden by trees and, for many of us, is surrounded by memories of some of the most powerful moments at camp, there is a constant stream of people kneeling before a powerful God in prayer.



## EVENING: WORSHIP NIGHT

1. Lord God, you turn our sorrows into joy, hear our praise. Lord God, you are \_\_\_\_.
2. Lord, you are the origin of all good things, we give you thanks. Lord, thank you for \_\_\_\_.
3. Lord, hear our confession and free us from our guilt. Lord, we are sorry for \_\_\_\_.
4. We come to you with our requests on Lord because we know you are good. Lord, we ask you for \_\_\_\_.

*We open our hearts to you oh Lord, fill us with your spirit.*

# ETERNAL LIFE: THE ULTIMATE COMMUNITY



DAY 6 / THURSDAY

# SAY HIS NAME BY MEGAN MADISON

you say his name like  
you haven't prayed in two months

you know what your parents told you  
your preacher  
your grandpa  
but you're still melting into  
superficial  
text me  
sedentary feeling  
pop culture

you see the devoted extremists  
on netflix  
and say you'll never be like them  
but you're afraid that if you claim the same religion  
without becoming a walking disclaimer  
you'll be like them

you say his name like the scriptures  
for class you're complaining about reading  
aren't the same ones you read in high school  
and claimed changed you

ocean  
thunder  
whisper

louder

say his name like  
all the good things in your life  
came pouring from his open, beating heart  
into your clenched fists

say his name like he is  
God.

Thursday is what I would consider to be the most comfortable day of the week. Our new friendships are strong enough that we're suddenly wishing for more time; suddenly aware of the fact that we have less time left than we've already had. Thursday gives us the eyes to see and appreciate and live in the beautiful and holy community we've been given.

We discussed on Thursday the unhealthy spiritual patterns we often fall into. In light of the worship we experienced last night, we questioned why we liked it so much and we questioned why worship doesn't always feel like that.

Thursday night, we welcomed a new sister in Christ and then, as one of our favorite senior week traditions, we spent the night as a community, taking time to tell each other that the way we see them is so much greater than the way they see themselves.



→ OIL NIGHT



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



DAY 7 / FRIDAY

Once Friday comes, we're thinking about our return home on Saturday. All of us who have been coming to camp for years know all too well how quickly the feelings we build up fade. Every year we question how to leave in a better way.

“WE THINK WE HAVE TO GO OUT TO CAMP SO WE CAN GET RID OF OUR GUILT AND CAN FEEL GOD'S LOVE AGAIN.”

“WE KNEEL BEFORE THE FATHER NOT SO THAT YOU WILL FEEL GUILTY BUT SO THAT YOU CAN FEEL THE POWER OF HIS LOVE.”

“WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE ONCE WE GET HOME, AND OUR CONVERSATIONS IMMEDIATELY WENT TO OUR SHAME AND GUILT.”

“WHEN WE'RE WRAPPED UP IN GUILT, WE'RE MISSING OUT ON AN OCEAN OF LOVE.”

“WE DEAL WITH OUR SIN BY DRAWING NEAR TO GOD.”

“EVERYTHING YOU ARE BELONGS AT THE FEET OF JESUS.”

“WE FEEL LIKE WE CAN'T HAVE THIS AT HOME, BUT THAT CAN'T BE TRUE BECAUSE GOD IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT.”

# CABIN 1



Counselors: Asa Coppinger & James Lamansky

Campers: Luke Henley, Brock Edwards, Landen Dobbs, Liam Chappel,  
Tristan Monteith, Jordan Goods, Matthew Cronquist, Cole Brock

# CABIN 2



Counselors: Cameron Kurtz & Bryce Tyler

Campers: Andrew Graber, Logan Shriver, Nate Lamansky, Jonah Howe,  
Dolton O'Brian, Joshua Hickenbottom, Caleb Ferreira, Ian Welch



# CABIN 3



Counselors: Ben Ferreira & Cole Huffhines

Campers: Andrew Sleege, Kuinton Middaugh, Jackson Martens, Jacob Theisen,  
Scott Winborn, Ethan Moomey, Isaiah Kraft, Anthony Aragon



# CABIN 4



Counselors: Logan Street & Grant Seufferlein

Campers: Chad Behal, Carson Graham, Kolbie Clayton, Bryce Smith,  
Chris Martens, Zac Miliken, Mason Hawkins, Zach Davis, Alex Heinrichs

# CABIN 5



Counselors: Dylan Odom & Jon McConnell

Campers: Miles Huffhines, Trey Pierson, Carson Kline, Cameron Kreinbring,  
Skylar Doland, George Johnson, Aden Torneten

# CABIN 7



Counselors: Colby Smith & Lexie Ingram

Campers: Ruby Massey, Kelly Bienfang, Mikala Kenkel, Corryn Steinbeck, Olesia Kraft, Goldie DeBoer, Bailey Pierson, Ashlyn Weber, Erica Ruffenach



# CABIN 8



Counselors: Madeline Roseke & Madison Brant

Campers: Mycah Reiland, Madi Rudolph, Fa Jones, Cat Toth, Sara Kottra,  
Desiree Eitel, Wren Black, Reagan Townsend



# CABIN 9



Counselors: Ashley Henn & Shania Brown

Campers: Jasmine Weaver, Rachel Lemay, Annie Battles, Mason Monteith,  
Jennifer Soendker, Katie Kerns, Angel Edwards, Katelynn Brandley, Becca Hollis

# CABIN 11



Counselors: Martina Wilson & Michelle McCann

Campers: Bre Doland, Taylor Gish, Ema Pauling, Melissa Hoffman,  
Megan VanDeusen, Emily Miliken, Maria Young, Emily Cronquist

# CABIN 12



Counselors: Courtney Weaver & Erica McConnell

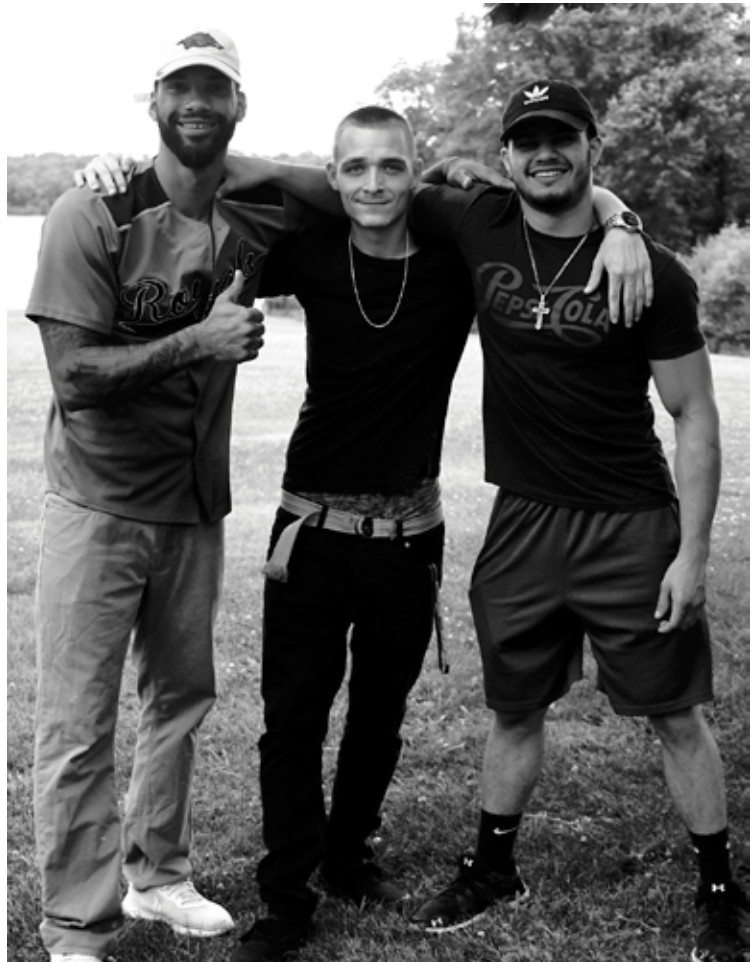
Campers: Gracie Wink, Sandra Padilla, Alyvia Garcia, Rebecca Graber,  
Regan Ferreira, Mallory Madison, Cassidy Towel, Mikayla Brant,  
Ashely Hinrichs





Eunshill Williams,  
Doloris James,  
Terri Graham,  
Pattie Madison,  
(Eva Perry),  
& Brenda O'Brian,  
**Cooks**

Tony Christansen,  
**Camp Supervisor**



Jesse Pickett,  
James Price,  
& Tommy Hardin,  
**Dining Hall Staff**





Dan McCann &  
Emily McCallum,  
**Sports**

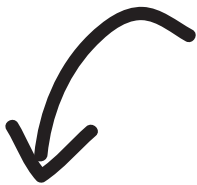


Jason Hawkins & Carson Tuttle, **Directors**





Seth Roepke, Calvin Graham, Kara Tipton, Cason Pyle, & Jeremy Widner,  
**Teachers**



Angie Hawkins & Melanie James,  
**Prayer Team**





Morgan Graham &  
Todd Tipton, **Spiritual Life**



Mike Macafee,  
**Nurse**



Sherry Norris,  
**Secretary**







Meredith Madison, Eva Hawkins, Laura Hawkins, & Christopher Macafee  
**Future Campers**



Megan Madison, **Historian**



