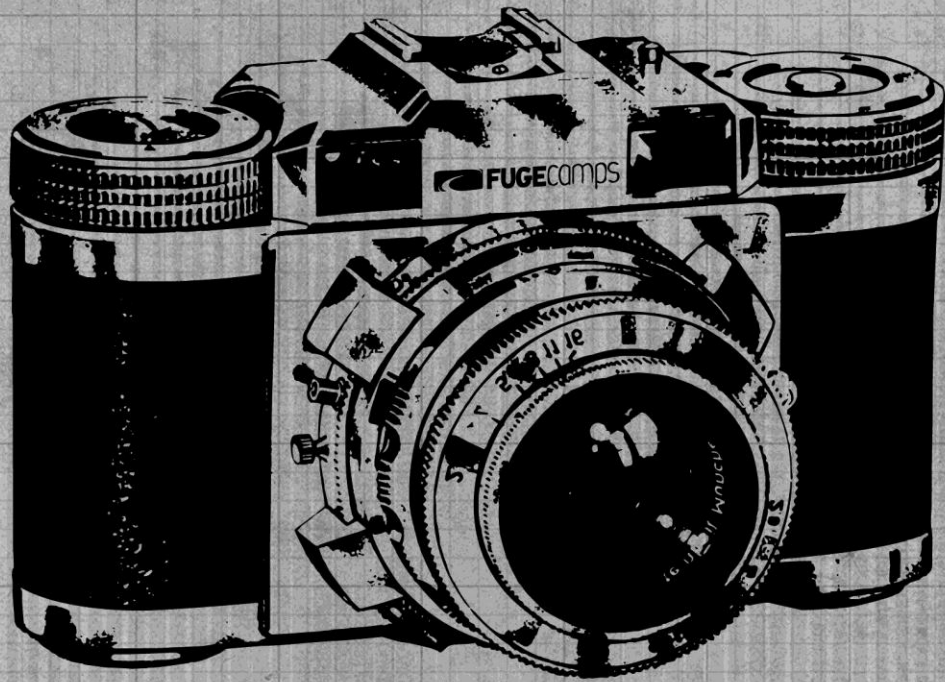


THE **BIG** PICTURE



FUGE CAMPS 2013

AFTER CAMP BIBLE STUDY 2013

 **FUGECamps**[®]

AFTER CAMP BIBLE STUDY WRITER: Chad McClurg



Chad McClurg grew up in East Tennessee and attended college at Carson-Newman College and seminary at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Chad served with Fuge camps as a Bible Study Leader and Camp Pastor for over 10 years.

Chad currently serves as the Director of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries at LSU Alexandria in Alexandria, Louisiana and spends time traveling to speak to youth and college groups. In his spare time Chad loves to travel, golf, watch sports, and cheer for the Tennessee Vols.

CONTENT/COPY EDITORS: Alicia Claxton, Tess Morrell and Kyle Cravens

THEOLOGICAL REVIEWER: Dr. Ed Thiele

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Nate Farro

Copyright © 2013 LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention – Printed in the United States of America.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

AFTER CAMP BIBLE STUDY #1



- Title:** God with Us Changes Who We Are
- Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:17-24, Hebrews 3:13
- Supplies Needed:** Large sheet of paper or poster board, Markers, Sheets of paper for students, Pens, Two blindfolds

Motivation

Activity: Play a round of “I’ve Never.” Arrange everyone sitting in chairs in a circle with one less chair for the number of people you have in the group. If you do not have chairs, students can sit on the floor. Lead the student without a chair to stand in the middle and say something he has never done or a place he has never visited. Everyone who has done that activity or been to that place must stand up and move to a different chair while the person in the middle runs for an empty seat. This will leave one person left in the middle to continue the game. After several rounds, ask students how they felt being in the middle. Most people will say they did not like it. Ask them to share some reasons why. The common answer will likely be because they didn’t like sticking out in the group or standing in front of everyone. Tell them that most people do not like to stick out or be different from others in a game like this or in life.

Say: For most of us, we do not want to feel different or isolated. We like to fit in and feel like we are part of the group. This desire to fit in can cause problems for us as Christians because we’ve been called by Christ to live differently from the world around us. Christ died so we could be forgiven of our sin and made new in Him. Our lives should reflect this transformation; everything from our motives to our thoughts and actions should set us apart.

Examination

Call on a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

This verse says that anyone who has a relationship with Christ is a new creation. **What do you think it means to be a new creation?**

Say: Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from the penalty of our sin (death and separation from God) and to give us new life in Him. This new life starts now as we live in obedience to Him here on earth. To help us understand why it is so important to live in a new way, we are going to look in the book of Ephesians.

Examination

Ephesians 4:17-24

Context: The book of Ephesians was written as a letter by the apostle Paul, one of the first great teachers, leaders, and missionaries of the Christian church. Paul lived for many years misguided by self-righteousness and religious piety, but through an encounter with Christ he discovered the big picture of God’s redemptive story. He realized life was about following Jesus and living as a new creation. He wrote a letter to a group of churches in a city called Ephesus to encourage them and to challenge them to live differently than the world around them.

Direct students to turn to Ephesians 4 and invite someone to read verse 17. “Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thoughts.”

What does the word *Gentile* mean? Who are Gentile people?

Share: Many of the people in these churches were Jewish and therefore followed Jewish practices and ideas. Anyone not born Jewish was considered a Gentile. To Jewish people, a Gentile represented someone outside the Jewish faith who did not have a relationship with the one true God. When Paul tells them not to live like the

Gentiles, they understood that to mean, “Do not live as the world does.” Paul was commanding them to leave behind their worldly ways.

Say: We often talk in church about not living as the world lives and we quote Scripture that tells us to be in the world but not of it.

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “worldly living”?

Activity: Depending on the size of your group, divide students into small groups or do this activity all together. Assign groups or individual students one of the following activities:

- Option One: On a large sheet of paper or poster board, draw out pictures that represent “worldly” living (remind them to keep it G-rated).
- Option Two: List things you associate with worldly living on a sheet of paper.

Give students a few minutes to work then allow them to share their drawings or lists. Ask the group why they consider those things “worldly?” Students will most likely list actions such as lying, drugs/alcohol, bad language, sexual sins, fighting, etc. before they list worldly attitudes. Invite them to discuss why we often think about outward actions before we think of inward attitudes?

Share: Paul states that followers of Jesus Christ are not to live like the world anymore. Before we come to know Christ, we have no option of how to live because we are sinful by nature. Through salvation we are made new and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in a way that honors God. That is the most liberating and overwhelming reality we will ever experience! Even though we know this, sometimes Christians (especially teenagers dealing with peer pressure) rationalize sinful actions by thinking, “What’s so bad about the worldly way of living?” Though it may look fun and enticing, sin will always lead to destruction.

Call on a student to read aloud Ephesians 4:18-19.

Say: In these verses Paul paints a vivid picture of worldly people, those who do not know Christ. He describes them by saying, “They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God.”

Explain to students that as Christians we believe God created this world, including every person and everything that exists. Because He created it all, He knows what’s best for every person and thing on this earth. That is why we go to God for direction. If we want to know how to live, we must look to God’s Word, for direction.

How would you feel if you did not have access to the Bible? How different would your daily life be without His Word to guide you?

Activity: Depending on your room and set up, you may need to adjust this activity. Direct a volunteer to go to the back of the room and put on a blindfold. Once the person is blindfolded, allow the other students to rearrange the room (move chairs, sit in new locations, etc.). Instruct the blindfolded student to walk around the room until he or she can find where you are standing. After you are in place, do not talk or give hints on where you are located. Allow two other people to walk alongside the blindfolded student to serve as “spotters” for safety purposes. This task will be almost impossible to complete in a large room so you may need to set a time limit. After this first round, ask for a second volunteer to put the blindfold on then direct students to rearrange the room again. This time, allow students to talk to the blindfolded volunteer and give directions on where to go (make sure there are spotters). The second volunteer should be able to find you easier than the first. Allow time for each volunteer to share about their experience. The first student may say it was difficult because they had no sense of direction. Explain that this illustration is a great picture of what Paul is talking about in Ephesians 4:18-19.

Option: If your space or time does not permit the blindfold activity, try this instead. Ask students to share about a time the power went out at their house at night. How did everyone react? Did everyone run around? Did

anyone bump into things? Was it hard to find flashlights or candles? How did it feel being in the dark? How relieved were you when the lights came on? How would you feel if your whole life was like that?

Tell students that without Christ we are separated from God, the one who gives light and directs our steps. Without His guidance, we would stumble through life trying to find meaning and purpose and end up following the world into perpetual darkness. In verses 18-19, Paul tells us that those who are separated from God indulge in worldly things that wreck their minds and cause their hearts to become calloused. The worldly things Paul is referring to are sinful activities that have destructive consequences. Paul is painting a dark and desperate picture, but remember what he said in the previous verse: we do not have live like that anymore! We can walk a different path because we have been given the light of Christ and the wisdom of His Spirit.

Call on a student to read verses 20-24.

Share: Paul says we have a new truth in our lives that transforms and enables us to put off the old self and live as new creations. The new is who we are in Christ and the old is who we were before Christ.

If we have been changed through salvation so we can live in a new way, why do we so often run back to our old ways?

Call for a student to read Hebrews 3:13 and ask a volunteer to put this verse in their own words. This verse tells us to encourage each other because sin is deceitful. Lead students to give some practical examples of what this type of encouragement looks like.

Application

Remind students that Jesus came so we could be forgiven of sin and live as transformed people. Guide students to take a moment in prayer and ask God to reveal anything in their life that is a symbol of the old self. Encourage them to pray for forgiveness and repent (turn away from that sin). Challenge them to share this with someone they trust for accountability.

After Camp Bible Study #2

Title: God with Us is Love

Scripture: 1 John 3:11-18

Supplies Needed: A large piece paper and marker for the top 10 list, Clear drink pitcher, Kool-Aid® mix, Spoon, Paper towels



Motivation

Activity: Place students into small groups. Share that your church has been chosen to host several visitors from a foreign country coming to learn about our culture. Tell students they have been asked to explain American holiday customs to these visitors. Assign each group a holiday and instruct them to use any means necessary (songs, drawings, hand signals, etc.) to help explain this celebration to people who have no concept of what it is. Encourage them to focus on the very basic elements of the holiday. As groups share, interrupt them as they are explaining and ask them to explain further. For example, if they say “at Christmas you get presents”, ask them to explain what a present is and why they are given at Christmas. Continue asking questions until students start to get frustrated (remember to make it fun). Ask them why explaining the basics of something they know so well can be difficult. Tell them that today we are talking about how the most basic things can also be the most important.

Say: The most basic information we know in life is often the easiest to overlook. **Why is that true?** If something is simple and basic we tend to overlook it because we do not spend much time thinking about it. In this session, we will be looking at a letter in the New Testament that addresses some basic principles that Christians often overlook or forget the significance of.

Examination

1 John 3:11-15

Context: This letter was written by the apostle John, who traveled with and studied under Jesus. He wrote this letter to a group of Christian believers struggling with theological issues. John’s desire was to clear up any falsehoods or misconceptions and remind them of the most basic principle in Christianity—to love one another. John’s words were meant to challenge them to honor Christ and one another no matter the circumstances. The original recipients of this letter had experienced some heavy disagreements within their group, but John reminded them that even in disagreement they were called to love deeply.

Call on a volunteer to read I John 3:11.

Share: One of the most basic messages of the Christian faith is to love one another. Because of God’s great love for us expressed through the death of Jesus on the cross, we should show love to each other. This is very simple and basic, yet easy to overlook.

Why do we as followers of Christ tend to overlook this mandate to love one another? Students may respond with many answers, but a common one may be that people are just not easy to love at times.

Activity: Divide students into small groups and instruct them to come up with 10 reasons why it is sometimes hard to love people. Give students a few minutes to think and share their answers. Make a “top 10” list from the reasons they shared. Lead students to vote on which answer should go where on the list. Ask students why they picked each of these answers and why they ranked them as they did.

Option: Give groups this assignment: Imagine a situation you may face where it would be difficult to show love. Plan a short skit to demonstrate this situation and show the two responses you could choose. You may want to give students some situations (at school, with family, at work, on a sports team, etc.) if they need some help.

Give them time to share their skits. After these skits, ask students to explain why in each situation it would be challenging to show love.

Say: There are many reasons we could give to explain why showing love to people who are difficult or who just do not want to receive love is hard. John understood this problem.

Call on a volunteer to read 1 John 3:12-13.

John refers to the story of Cain and Abel. Ask a student to briefly explain the story or give a brief synopsis yourself. The problem with Cain and Abel is that one offered a better sacrifice and it made the other sibling feel bad about his actions. Instead of taking the blame himself, Cain blamed his brother for his bad choices. This caused Cain to make a terrible choice to kill his brother. No one likes to be compared to someone else, especially a family member.

**Have you ever been compared to a sibling or other family member?
How did that make you feel? Why do we not like being compared to others?
What can happen if we let anger and frustration over comparisons linger in our thoughts?
How can we stop our anger and frustration from turning into hatred?**

Call on a student to read 1 John 3:14-15.

John says that as a Christian, when you live a life of love, it is evidence that something has changed within you. We studied this idea in the previous session and looked at how Christ has changed us from inside out (2 Corinthians 5:17). Love is the outward expression we can show to the world that visibly illustrates how we have been changed on the inside. The problem is that sometimes it is hard to tell on the outside what has changed on the inside.

Object Lesson: Before the session, gather supplies needed to make a pitcher of Kool-Aid® (clear drink pitcher, Kool-Aid mix, spoon, and paper towels). Call on a volunteer to help you demonstrate how to make the drink. Allow students to give the volunteer step by step instructions. After the drink is made, ask: **When you look at this pitcher, how do you know there is Kool-Aid inside and not water?** They will say the color. The color of the liquid helps us to know that a change has taken place. Ask: **What all has changed about this drink from when it was water?** (Color, taste, smell, calories, etc.) Read the ingredients and ask why they added food coloring. The Kool-Aid company adds color because if you are drinking a cherry drink there is an expectation that the color should be red. If you are drinking lemonade it should be yellow, etc. Remind students that they knew this drink had been changed because of the color. There was evidence on the outside that a change had occurred on the inside. John wants us to realize the same thing as Christians. We have been changed on the inside and made into a new creation by Jesus. People cannot see what has changed about us on the inside unless there is evidence on the outside. When we live a life of love, it offers proof to the world that we have been changed from the inside out.

Call on a volunteer to read 1 John 3:16.

Most people are very familiar with John 3:16 and, 1 John 3:16 has a very similar idea. We know what love is because of what Jesus did on the cross. Because of His great love for us, we should be willing to extend love to those around us, especially fellow Christians.

When someone visits a church or youth group for the first time, what do you think they are looking for?

Listen to their answers and suggest this: When people observe Christians they want to see if we are different from the rest of the world. Do we act differently or talk differently? Do we treat each other with respect and concern? If someone comes to church and sees us loving each other they will be compelled to discover why and how we love so deeply.

Application

Call on a student to read 1 John 3:17-18.

We are called to love not just with our words, but also with our actions. Guide students to brainstorm ways they can express love to one another with their words and actions. Help students come up with a good list. Post these ideas on the wall so students are reminded every time they see it. Consider planning a service project where students serve together as a tangible way of putting love into action.

Close by bringing students together in a circle and allowing them to pray for one another.

After Camp Bible Study #3



Title: God with Us along the Narrow Path

Scripture: Acts 3:1-7; 4:1-20

Supplies Needed: Large pieces of paper, Markers, Words to portions of the following famous speeches: The Gettysburg Address, JFK's inauguration speech, Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream", Copy of "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost

Motivation

Activity: Divide students into small groups. Provide large pieces of paper and markers for each team. Tell students they have been placed in charge of a new roller coaster design. Instruct groups to create the scariest and most intense ride they can dream up. Alert them that their roller coaster must be themed and drawn with as much detail as possible. Give them a brief time to design, then allow groups to share their work. Ask: **Which of these roller coasters would you want to ride? Why? Are there any roller coasters in these drawings that you would be nervous to ride? Why?**

Say: Fast and wild roller coasters can be scary. Many people avoid the thrill of theme park rides because they are intimidated by the speed or height of roller coasters. In this session, we will look at how to handle intimidating situations and discover the courage we need to face life's ups and downs.

Option: Instruct students to make a list of the most common fears or phobias people face (public speaking, death, flying, snakes, etc.). From their list, encourage them to pick 5 they think are the most common. Discuss each one and have a student explain why they think people have that fear. For example, someone may fear flying because they have no control over the plane. Tell the group: Having fear is common, but not everyone has the courage to face those fears and the things that intimidate them. In this session we will see two men who don't back down when faced with intimidating people and circumstances.

What is the most intimidating situation you have ever experienced?

What has been your greatest accomplishment so far in life? Did achieving that goal intimidate you when you first considered it?

Some may say the first time they flew in a plane, when they took their driver's test, or when they had to give a speech in school. Ask them why they felt scared or intimidated.

Examination

Acts 3, 4

Instruct students to turn in their Bibles to Acts 3. Ask them to share what they know about the book of Acts. Tell them this book was written to document what happened to the followers of Jesus after His resurrection. It chronicles the beginning of the faith we now call Christianity.

Call on a student to read Acts 3:1-7.

Who were Peter and John? (Peter and John were two disciples who lived and walked alongside Jesus while He ministered on Earth)

What do we know about the man at the temple gate?

Share: We are introduced to a man who has been crippled from birth and sits begging outside a gate called “beautiful”. Explain that he had to beg for food and resources in order to survive. Allow students to describe some of the challenges this man would have faced every day of his life.

How do you respond when you see someone begging or in need?

How did Peter and John respond to the situation? (Peter and John told the crippled man they did not have money, but offered him something far better—the healing power of Jesus. In the name of Jesus they had the authority to speak miraculous healing over the man)

Invite a student to read Acts 4:1-7.

Why were Peter and John arrested? (They were proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. This did not sit well with those in political and religious power during this time)

Who were the people questioning them? (These people were known as the Sanhedrin, a group of the religious leaders and teachers. This group consisted of the Pharisees and Sadducees. The Sanhedrin did not want to hear anymore teaching or talk about Jesus. They demanded Peter and John explain how the healing of the crippled man outside the gate was possible)

Ask a student to read Acts 4:8-12.

**What was Peter’s response to the question asked by the Sanhedrin?
How was Peter able to respond like this?**

Share: When Peter was called upon to answer this group, he was not answering alone. Peter had the Holy Spirit to help guide him as he shared about this miracle. This is one of the roles of the Holy Spirit, to help us in times of need. Peter on his own was an ordinary guy. With the Holy Spirit in his life, he was able to share an amazing response.

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you did not know how to respond? (Answers may include: having to explain the Christian faith, when asked to do something you know is wrong, having to tell someone what they are doing is incorrect, etc.)

Share: Just like Peter, we will be placed into situations where we have to respond to the world and are not sure how. **When these times happen, what should we do?** What we see in the life of Peter is that we should rely on the Holy Spirit. If we are walking with Christ and growing in our faith, we will be open to the voice of His Spirit in our lives. In those tough moments, we will have a Guide and all we have to do is obey and follow His lead.

Activity: Ask for three volunteers. Tell them that you are going to give them each a copy of a famous speech from history (The Gettysburg Address, JFK’s inauguration speech, and Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream”). Tell them they have 2 minutes to memorize and recite as much as they can. They will get one point for each word they get correct. Recruit several other students to keep score by reading along as they try to recite the speech. Ask the volunteers: **Why was it difficult to recite the speech?** Explain that it’s challenging to be put on the spot with no time to prepare. Tell them this is the same challenge Peter faced as he stood before the religious leaders. Peter was given supernatural wisdom and courage as he opened his mouth. We can trust that the Holy Spirit will also give us wisdom when we are called upon to speak up for Him.

Allow a volunteer to read Acts 4:13-14

How did the people who heard Peter’s speech respond?

Share: When the rulers and elders heard this speech, they were amazed because they looked at Peter and John and realized they were, “uneducated and untrained men.” They could not understand how Peter and John were able to perform miracles and give amazing speeches. The only thing they could conclude was that they had been with Jesus and that made all the difference. When we live and walk with Jesus, we will see amazing things done in our lives. Even though we are ordinary people just like Peter and John, Jesus can use our lives to make a difference in this world. Ask the students if they know what Peter’s original job was. He was a fisherman (Luke 5 tells of Peter’s call by Jesus)! He lived an ordinary life, but when he began to walk with Jesus he began to see “the big picture.” God used his life to do amazing things and he can do the same thing with our lives, but it requires an important choice.

Invite a volunteer to read Acts 4:15-18.

Share: The Sanhedrin gathered together and decided to rid the world of this “Jesus problem” once and for all. They told Peter and John they were not allowed to teach or speak the name of Jesus. This left the disciples with a tough choice. They had walked with Jesus and had seen amazing things, but the world was telling them to keep quiet. They had to choose if they were going to follow through with what they felt called by God to do or bow to the pressure of the world.

Application

Read “The Road Not Taken,” by Robert Frost to the group. Many students may be familiar with this poem from school. Tell students to imagine walking through the woods and they come upon a fork in the road. One path seems wide and easy to manage, while another looks smaller and more difficult. Obviously most people would choose the easy path over the tough path, but the narrator of this poem did the opposite. He explains that decision is what made the difference in his life. Tell them that Peter and John were in the same situation. They had to choose the direction their lives would take from this point forward and they knew that choice would make all the difference. Each of us can choose to follow the path of the world or to follow where Jesus calls us to go. Following Christ will not be as easy, but He promises to lead us down a path that will define our lives with kingdom purpose.

Read Peter’s response in Acts 4:19-20.

Share: Peter said because of all he had experienced in his walk with Christ he had to choose the narrow path. He literally could not stop talking about Jesus because of the profound impact the Lord had made on his life.

**Do the choices you make point to the world’s path or the one Jesus calls us to take?
Is your life radically different because of the time you spend with Jesus?**

Close with prayer. Allow students to consider what path they have chosen with their life. Challenge them to choose wisely.