

# RETREAT THEMES

WE LIVE!

Themes and Topics for  
Spiritual Growth Weekends



**Some of the themes and topics in this booklet have been inspired by a host of different sources: sermons, classes, books, speakers, etc.**

## ***Theme: I'm Coming Home***

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night: Are you Ready for the Journey?**

Point: Heaven is something we should all be looking forward to because it is a place beyond our wildest imagination.

#### **Saturday Night: God Prepared for Your Return!**

Point: God was willing to give His son as a sacrifice so we could live with Him in Heaven!

#### **Sunday Morning: God is waiting!**

Point: Like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son, the Father (God) is waiting for His children to return home so He can give them a place of security!

### **Class Topics:**

#### **Class 1 – Will we Know each Other in Heaven?**

Point: Heaven will be great because we can be together with our loved ones who are in heaven!

#### **Class 2 – Roadblocks on the Road to Heaven**

Point: Sometimes there are things that get in the way as we travel the long road home!

#### **Class 3 – Heaven's Guest List!**

Point: Not everyone will make it into Heaven! Only those who do the Will of God!

## Theme: Dare You To Move

### Devotional Sessions:

#### **Friday Night – Where You Gonna Go?**

Point: We are all at different places in life. As this weekend begins we must ask ourselves the question, “Where are we gonna go? With Jesus or with the World?”

#### **Saturday Night – What Happens Next?**

Point: Moving from where you are to where you should be (where God wants you to be). This lesson should challenge the students to think about who or what they really are when compared to whom and what God wants them to be.

#### **Sunday Morning – Salvation is Here!**

Point: Jesus and living for Him is what we dare you to move toward because forgiveness and salvation are only found in Him.

### Class Topics:

#### **1. Dare you to Move when Everyone else is Standing still**

Point: Talk about having the courage to stand up and step out when no one else is. (You can talk about standing up for what’s right, not giving in to sin, doing something about the sin around you, etc.)

#### **2. Dare you to Move when you have Nowhere to go**

Point: Talk about turning to God and trusting in Him when things in life are tough.

#### **3. Dare you to Move when you are Afraid of the Change**

Point: Change can be a scary thing for all of us. How can we follow Jesus if we are afraid of making the necessary changes?

## **Theme: Road Rules: Preparing for our Journey Home**

From the moment we are born until the moment we die, we are on a journey home. This journey is long and often times difficult. Along the way we encounter several obstacles. Many times these obstacles cause us to get off course and it's hard to find our way back on the road we should be traveling. Join us as we discuss "Road Rules" for making the journey home. It's a long road home!

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – Road Blocks**

Point: This lesson will focus on some of the roadblocks we encounter on our journey.

#### **Saturday Morning – Detours**

Point: This lesson will focus on some of the detours many people take along the journey home.

#### **Saturday Night – The Exit**

Point: This lesson will focus on the exit we need to take, the cross of Christ.

#### **Sunday Morning – Our Destination**

Point: This lesson will focus on the most important part of the journey home, the destination. Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you going?

## **Theme: Protect Our House**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night - Protect Your House Physically**

Point: Our bodies do not belong to us; they are a gift from God. We must do everything we can to protect them.

#### **Saturday Night - Protect Your House Mentally**

Point: This lesson focuses on how we can protect our minds and bodies mentally.

#### **Sunday Morning - Protect Your House Spiritually**

Point: This lesson focuses on how we protect our lives spiritually.

### **Class Topics:**

#### **Class 1 - Protect Your Reputation - (Prov. 22:1)**

Point: Our reputation takes years to build and only a moment to destroy. This lesson discusses how students can protect and guard their reputation.

#### **Class 2 - Protect Your Purity - (2 Tim. 2:22) SPLIT CLASS (Boys and Girls)**

Point: Living pure lives almost seems like a thing of the past. This lesson leads the students through protecting their purity.

#### **Class 3 - Protect Your Relationships (I Jn. 4:20; Mt. 5:23-24)**

Point: This lesson focuses on how we can protect the important relationships in our lives.

## **Theme: Finding Your Own Faith**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

**Friday Night– Faith: If You Seek It You Will Find It** (Mt. 7:7-8; Rom. 10:17)

Point: In this lesson talk about how faith only comes when we seek after it in the Word of God.

**Saturday Night – Faith: It Can Move Mountains** (Mt. 17:20)

Point: This lesson should lay out how significant faith is in the life of a believer.

**Sunday Morning – Faith: It Leads to Victory** (Heb. 11:6)

Point: If we want to be people who are pleasing to God, we must be people of a strong faith.

### **Class Topics:**

**Class 1 - What Kind of Faith should We have?**

Point: Discuss how we should have a faith that relies upon the truths of God's Word.

**Class 2 - Why is Believing so Important?**

Point: Discuss how believing and faith provide believers with hope.

**Class 3 - Why is Faithful Living so Important?**

Point: Discuss how faithful living leads to eternal life.

## **Theme: This is the Life**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – God Loves Me Even Though I’m Me!**

Point: We make mistakes on a daily basis and yet God is willing to forgive us because of His great Love for us!

#### **Saturday Night – Heaven is Waiting!**

Point: One of the greatest joys of being a Christian is the hope we have of Heaven being our eternal home!

#### **Sunday Morning – Are You Who You Want to Be?**

Point: God has given all people an opportunity to take advantage of this wonderful life that is found through His son Jesus. Are you taking advantage of the opportunity God has presented to you?

### **Class Topics:**

#### **Class 1 – We Are Family**

Point: As Christians we have an extended family that goes way beyond that of just our physical families!

#### **Class 2 – It Means No Worries**

Point: As Christians we can lay our heads down on our pillows at night and not worry about what the future holds!

#### **Class 3 – You Can Have Your Fun and Be A Christian Too!**

Point: Being a Christian doesn’t always mean you have to choose between God and fun! You can actually have both!



## **Theme: Fear Factor**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night - Fear of Failure**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we should never be afraid of failure because we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

#### **Saturday Night - Fear of Being Disappointed**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we should not fear disappointment because we serve a God who is bigger than our disappointments.

#### **Sunday Morning - Fear of the Future**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we have no reason to fear the future. As faithful children of God, whether we live or die we have it made.

### **Class Topics**

#### **Class 1 - Fear of Rejection/Loneliness**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we should not fear rejection because we are never alone; God is always with us.

#### **Class 2 - Fear of Being Wrong**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we should not be afraid of being wrong because we use the Bible as our guide.

#### **Class 3 - Fear of Sacrifice**

Point: This lesson will focus on how we should not fear what we have to sacrifice for God because we have something better waiting.

## **Theme: I AM**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – I Am All-Knowing**

Point: Discuss how God is all-knowing and what that means for us today.

#### **Saturday Morning – I Am Faithful**

Point: Discuss how God is faithful and will never leave or forsake us.

#### **Saturday Night – I Am Merciful**

Point: Discuss how God is merciful and doesn't give us what we deserve.

#### **Sunday Morning – I Am Love**

Point: Discuss how God is love and how He demonstrated that love toward us.

## **Theme: Can You See Him?**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – Can You See Him In Your Blessings?**

Point: God has been so good to us. In this lesson discuss how we can see God in the blessings we enjoy.

#### **Saturday Morning – Can You See Him In Your Struggles?**

Point: We all have our share of struggles. In this lesson discuss how even though we are struggling, God can still be found because He is always near.

#### **Saturday Night – Can You See Him In Your Friends**

Point: Friends are some of the most important people in our lives. In this lesson discuss how we need to choose friends who we can see Jesus living in.

#### **Sunday Morning – Can You See Him In You?**

Point: Can others see Christ living in you? In this lesson discuss how important it is for us to be a shining light for God's glory to those around us.

## **Theme: Open our Eyes Lord**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – To Commitment**

Point: This lesson should deal with how we are to be committed to Jesus.

#### **Saturday Night – To Jesus**

Point: This lesson should focus on how we can pattern our lives after the life of Jesus.

#### **Sunday Morning – To Forgiveness**

Point: This lesson should deal with how we can both forgive others and receive it ourselves.

### **Class Topics:**

#### **Class 1 - To God's Creation**

Point: In this lesson discuss how if we open our eyes and take a look around we can be more convinced there is a God.

#### **Class 2 - To the Vision of God's Plan.**

Point: In this lesson discuss how we all fit into God's plan for mankind.

#### **Class 3 - To Heaven**

Point: In this lesson discuss how we should open our eyes to heaven and all the wonderful joys that await those who live faithful lives in service to God.

## **Theme: Amazing Grace**

### **Keynote Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – The True Need for Grace**

Point: Tell how we all need the grace of God (Rom. 3:23).

#### **Saturday Night – Using God’s Grace as an Excuse**

Point: Tell how the grace of God is not a pass for Premeditating Sins (Heb. 10:26-31).

#### **Sunday Morning – By the Grace of God**

Point: Tell how we are saved by the Grace of God and not of ourselves but that it is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9).

### **Class Topics:**

#### **Class 1 - Falling from Grace**

Point: Talk about how one can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4).

#### **Class 2 - Growing in Grace**

Point: Talk about ways we can grow in grace (2 Pet. 3:18).

#### **Class 3 - If we are Saved by Grace, then why Worry about Obedience?**

Point: Talk about how obedience works into the concept of being saved by grace through faith (I Sam. 15).

## **Theme: Knowledge! Is It In You?**

### **Keynote Sessions:**

**Friday Night – The Fear of the Lord...is the Beginning of Knowledge” (Pro. 1:7)**

Point: Knowledge begins with a reverent fear of God. When we truly begin to have knowledge we will humbly submit to God’s will.

**Saturday Night – Without Knowledge of God’s word, a Person has no Real Direction or Guidance in Life (Ps. 119:105).**

Point: The Bible was meant to be our guide. If we fail to meditate on it, we have no way of knowing God’s Will for our lives.

**Sunday Morning – The Best Knowledge - Knowledge of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 2:2)**

Point: Knowledge is considered a great investment in our society. However, the greatest knowledge a person can have is the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord.

### **Class Topics:**

**Class 1 - Why do we Worship the way we do? (Jn. 4:24)**

Point: This class will focus on why we worship the way we do when it seems everyone else around us worships differently.

**Class 2 - Seeking Knowledge**

Point: This class will give tips on how to go about seeking knowledge.

**Class 3 - What’s this Life all About? (Ecc. 12:1)**

Point: Why am I here? We’ve all asked this before. This class will explore that question.

## **Theme - *Labels: Seeing As God Sees***

### **KEYNOTE SESSIONS:**

**Friday Night – “Wait! Seeing Past the Label”** (Lk. 7:36-50)

Point: Are we the kind of people who are turned off by a person’s label or are we willing to see past the label and make an effort to reach out to all people?

**Saturday Morning – “It’s What’s on the Inside that Counts!”** (I Sam. 16:7)

Point: God sees not as man sees for God sees the heart of people. Some of the best people are the ones who do not have the best labels but have the best hearts.

**Saturday Night – “Seeing YOU as God Sees YOU”** (Eph. 2:10)

Point: When God looks at you He sees His masterpiece He created for good works.

**Sunday Morning – “What Label Defines You?” – Off with the old, on with the new** (Titus 3:3-7)

Point: We can rid our lives of the label of sin and be labeled as an heir of eternal life.

### **CLASS Topics:**

**Class 1 – “Using Your Labels for God”** (I Pet. 4:10-11)

Point: We all have our labels (athletic, smart, funny, kind, etc.) How can we use these labels for God?

**Class 2 – “The Christian Label”** (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:1-13)

Point: Our lives should tell the world a great deal about who we are. When people look at your life, do they see Christ living in you?

## LOST: Finding Your Way Home

### Devotional Sessions:

**Friday Night – *Lost: Which one are you?***

Point: Lost people typically fall into one of four categories: knowingly, unknowingly, willingly or emotionally? This lesson will focus on helping people figure out which category they are in.

**Saturday Morning – *The Search Party*** (Lk. 15:1-10)

Point: In this lesson we will focus on what we should be doing to help those who are lost.

**Saturday Night – *The Great Homecoming Party*** (Lk 15:20-24)

Point: This lesson focuses on the celebration that takes place when one of God's lost children returns home.

**Sunday Morning – *The Pharisaical Attitude*** (Lk. 15:25-32)

Point: This lesson will focus on the wrong type of attitude to have toward those who are lost.

### Class Sessions:

**Class 1 – *Wasted Living*** (Lk. 15:11-13)

Point: This lesson focuses on what "Wasted Living" means and how such living can cause a person to be lost.

**Class 2 – *U-TURN*** (Lk. 15:14-19)

Point: This lesson focuses on repenting of our sins and how we can do this.



## ONE ANOTHER

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**John 13:34-35**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

**Friday Night – We Need One Another: God Didn’t Intend for You to do it Alone (Heb. 10:24-25)**

Point: This lesson should focus on God’s plan for the church and for relationships.

**Saturday Morning – Don’t Judge One Another: Learning to Accept One Another (Rom. 14:13; 15:7)**

Point: This lesson should focus on the needs for God’s people to love and accept others for who they are.

**Saturday Night – Show Compassion to One Another (Col. 3:12-13)**

Point: This lesson should focus on how we are to have compassion for others at all times.

**Sunday Morning - Forgive One Another: You will be Hurt by One Another (Eph. 4:32)**

Point: This lesson should focus on our responsibility of forgiving others when they hurt us.

### **Class Sessions:**

**Saturday Class 1 – Don’t Bite One Another: Building One Another Up (Heb. 3:12-13; Jam. 4:11)**

Point: To often we spend too much time tearing others down with our words and actions. This class will focus on the need of building others up and some practical ways we can do that in our lives.

**Saturday Class 2 – Don’t Compare with One Another: We all have a Purpose (Gal. 5:22-26)**

Point: This lesson will focus on how God created all of us for a purpose, no matter how many or how few our talents and abilities might be.

## **Living in Reverse**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

#### **Friday Night – Dare to be Different: What Living in Reverse Means**

Point: God has called us to be different, but what does that look like? This lesson will focus on what a different life looks like in the life of a believer.

#### **Saturday Morning – Stand Up When Others Bow Down: Stand Up against Sin**

Point: This lesson will focus on how believers should and can stand up against all the sin around them.

#### **Saturday Night – Give Thought when Others Forget: Focus on the Eternal**

Point: This lesson will focus on living this life with heaven in mind in everything we do.

#### **Sunday Morning – Kneel When Others Run Away: Serve God and Worship Him**

Point: This lesson will focus on our need to serve God and worship Him in everything we do.

### **CLASS Sessions:**

#### **Class # 1 (split) – Becoming a Godly Man/Godly Woman**

Point: This lesson will focus on ways believers can become the godly man or woman God has called them to be.

#### **Class # 2 – Guard Your Heart**

Point: This lesson will focus on how believers can protect their hearts while living in the sinful world around them.

## **Theme: BREAKTHROUGH - Overcoming Your Giants**

### **Devotional Sessions:**

**Friday Night Keynote:** Facing the Giants in Your Life (I Sam. 17:1-11)

Point: This lesson will emphasize the fact that we all have giants in our lives we must face. Some of those giants are big and sometimes those giants are small.

**Saturday Night Keynote:** Focusing on God and Not Your Giants (I Sam. 17:34-47)

Point: This lesson will emphasize the importance of learning to focus on how big of a giant our God is.

**Sunday Morning Keynote:** Overcoming Your Giants (I Sam. 17:48-58)

Point: This lesson will emphasize the importance of facing the giants in our lives instead of running and hiding from them.

### **Class Sessions:**

#### **Class Session #1**

- Overcoming Worry, Fear and Discouragement (Split Class)
- Overcoming Addictions
- Overcoming Sexual Giants (Split Class)

#### **Class Session #2**

- Overcoming Sexual Giants (Split Class)
- Overcoming the World
- Overcoming Family Obstacles

#### **Class Session #3**

- Overcoming Worry, Fear and Discouragement (Split Class)
- Overcoming Addictions
- Overcoming the World