

You are Valuable!

Camper Devotion 2020



Dear Camper:

Life has been a little strange this year, hasn't it? Since camp didn't happen quite like normal, we wanted to send a virtual hug.

All of us—Camp Grandma and Grandpa, the facilitators, the photographer, all the T.R.A.C. staff and counselors—are thinking about you!

The following is the CrossTalk message in a nutshell—just for you. If you have the Bible from camp, you can highlight the verses on the listed pages or use the Table of Contents. If not, no worries. We wrote out the verses for you.

The key verse:

"We are God's masterpiece." Ephesians 2:10a

What does that mean? According to the dictionary, a masterpiece is "a work of OUTSTANDING artistry, skill or workmanship." So, if we are God's masterpiece that means God took special care to design each one of us. We—you and me—are VALUABLE!

Ready?

Keep reading.

From,

Your T.R.A.C. Family

Camp Day 1:

Mistake versus MASTERPIECE

The Bible says God is the creator of the entire universe and all life.

Does a beautiful sunset or mountain stir you? Do you ever wonder how it all happened?

(Pg. 542) The Bible says, "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known." Psalm 19:1-2

The creation of human beings is different from everything else on earth. God forms us with his hands like a potter. God's fingerprints are all over you. God breathed life into you! You are NOT a mistake. **YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE!**



(Pg. 727) The Bible says, "O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand." Isaiah 64:8

Have you ever made a clay pot on a pottery wheel?

You are the only part of creation that is created in God's image (intellect, soul and spirit).

Have you ever thought about this question: **Why am I here?**

Just like our physical body needs food, water, shelter and clothing, our heart and soul need purpose, meaning and hope.

The world is not randomly created, and neither are you. You are not an accident or a mistake.

(Pg. 732) The Bible says, "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born, I set you apart." Jeremiah 1:5

This establishes our value. You are a child of God, the Creator of the entire universe.

This answers the question, "Why am I here?"

Because God wanted to create you. You are not a mistake. You are a **MASTERPIECE!**

God says you are **VALUABLE!** That means you are **IMPORTANT, EXCELLENT, DESIRABLE, HIGHLY REGARDED, ESTEEMED** and **BELOVED.**

And what you believe **in your head** and **in your heart** influences the way you live your life.

PRAYER: God, please help me believe in my HEAD & in my HEART that I am your MASTERPIECE. Amen.

Camp Day 2: Lies versus TRUTH

Even though we are a masterpiece, sometimes we start believing lies that we are a mistake.

Let's highlight Genesis 16:6-10 & 13 in our Bibles. That's page 16 in your LIVE Bible.

Hagar was a woman whose job it was to take care of a couple by the name of Abraham and Sara. She was an Egyptian, a foreigner which made her a minority. Sara was jealous of her, so she was mean to Hagar.

Hagar ran away to the wilderness (a.k.a. the desert). Soon she ran out of supplies. Her water was gone, she didn't have any more food, and no one to help her. She thought she was going to die.

But God saw Hagar in the desert. He heard Hagar's cries.

God told Hagar she would have a son named Ismael. God also told her that her son would be the father of a great nation.

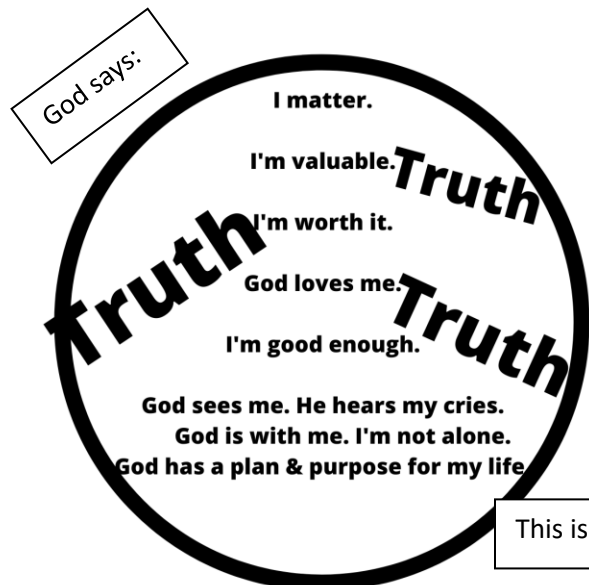
Hagar was so amazed that God **SAW** her. She was **IMPORTANT** to God.

Even when you feel unwanted, **God SEES YOU** and **HEARS YOU**.

Do you ever feel like Hagar? Have you ever believed these lies?



These are LIES.



This is TRUTH.

Imagine you had a \$100 bill.

What if the bill was crumpled up, spit on and stomped in the dirt? Would you still want the \$100?

Yes! Right?

Why? Because that \$100 bill still has value.

You still have value—even if you've been crumpled up, stomped in the dirt and spit on.



Remember our key verse:

"We are God's masterpiece." Ephesians 2:10a

In the movie *Overcomer*, one of the characters states, **"Your identity will be tied to whatever you give your heart to."**

What is your identity? What have you allowed to define you?

If we give our hearts to God, our identities will be tied to him. The truth of His love will define us.

If you look up the book of Ephesians in your Bible starting on page 1164, God has a few things to say about our value. God says:

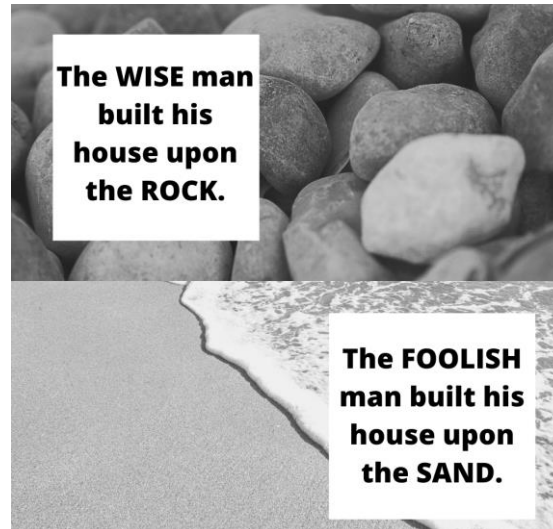
- We are **chosen by God.**
- We are **blessed.**
- We are **loved.**
- We are **adopted.**
- We are **God's masterpiece.**

PRAYER: God, please help me believe the TRUTH and not the lies. Help me to see that I am VALUABLE. Amen.

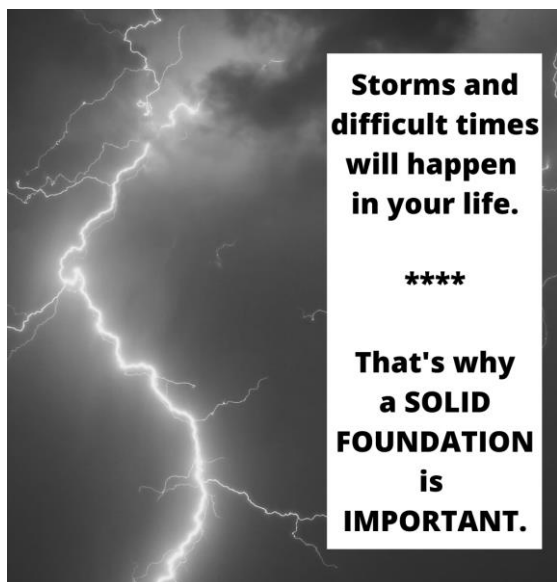
Camp Day 3: Shaky versus Solid Foundation

Read Matthew 7:24-27 in your Bible. (Pg. 955)

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is **wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.** Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, **it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.** But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is **foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.** When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, **it will collapse with a mighty crash.**"



This verse is not about how to build your house.
It's about how to build your life.

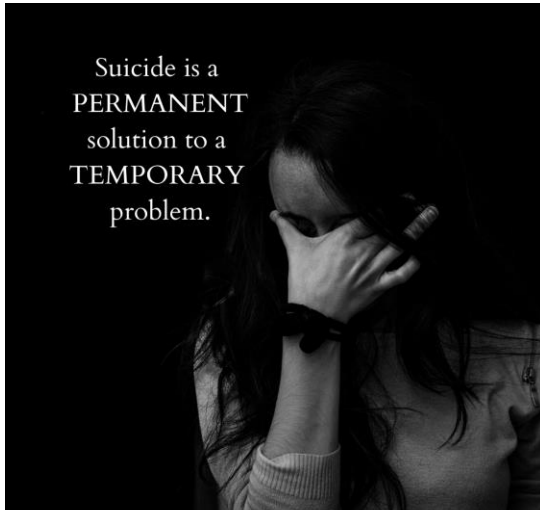


Storms and difficult times will happen in your life. In these times. Remember that emotions and circumstances will change.

Many storms in our lives are triggered by **LIES.** Lies that we aren't good enough, we're not worthy, and we're a mistake.

Don't believe the lie that nothing will ever get better. The storm will end.

That's why building a strong foundation is so important. What you believe in your heart becomes your foundation.



God refers to himself as a rock over 50 times in the Bible. Now that's a solid foundation!

You can start building a strong foundation by **talking with God just like you would a friend. That's called prayer.**

And by **reading God's road map. That's the Bible.** When you listen to God, He will help you reject the lies of hopelessness and discouragement. **His truth (what God says in the Bible) is the best weapon to fight the lies.**

Santria grew up feeling different. She didn't look like her white parents or her white classmates. Mean girls made her feel inadequate, and one girl regularly bullied her. Even though Santria was adopted into a loving family at 14 months, she felt the weight of abandonment. She never felt good enough.



During the dark days of middle school, Santria decided to pursue God and become a Christian like her adoptive parents. Therapy and medication helped her with her ongoing battle with clinical depression.

Life took a turn for the better. Santria enrolled in a performing arts high school where she was surrounded by others who looked like her. She came out of her shell and volunteered as a teen helper at Royal Family Kids Camp, identifying easily with other adopted kids and kids in foster care. The following summer, Santria volunteered with a team serving in Mexico. After graduation, she enrolled in college in Chicago where she's currently a sophomore studying music performance.

A friend convinced Santria she didn't need medication to help her combat clinical depression. Without telling her parents, her therapist or her psychiatrist, Santria stopped taking her medication. Alone in her dorm room, negative thoughts swirled around her head. She felt stupid for getting manipulated and wanted to end the pain. On the verge of swallowing an entire bottle of ibuprofen, Santria felt God meet her in the darkness.

To hear more, listen to Santria share her story at the following link:
<https://fidbak.audio/will@teenreach/player/8dad507a3abe3b71e3f350e1/11fc24>

*NOTE: The background music is *Worship Instrumental* by Adrian Johnathan.

PRAYER: God, please help me build my life on you, the solid ROCK. Amen.