

Relentless Love

LAMENTATIONS
3:22-23



2025



WHAT IS CHURCH TIME?

Immediately following Worship each night, your students and adults will gather as a group. You have the freedom to lead this however you feel is best. The purpose of this material is to provide a guide for you to use, if you so desire and need help structuring this time. These purposes for Church Time aim to foster a holistic and nurturing environment where students can grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. You may...

- 1. Continue Worship:** Church Time serves as an extension of the worship experience. It's a space where the spiritual fire kindled during the service can keep burning. Some students may have had profound experiences during worship, and this time allows them to share their decisions or reflections. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to delve deeper into the sermon's discussion.
- 2. Debrief and Connect:** This is a chance to connect on a personal level with your students. Simply checking in with them, asking about their day, and genuinely caring about their well-being are crucial for building meaningful connections. It's about creating a safe and caring environment.
- 3. Reflect and Acknowledge:** In the midst of a busy camp schedule, reflection is vital. It allows everyone to pause and process the day's events. This pause helps participants align their hearts with their thoughts and acknowledge the presence of God in their lives. Creating this space for reflection can be transformative.
- 4. Create Prayer Bonds:** Praying together is a powerful way to forge deep connections. It's not about the words spoken but the emotions shared. When you pray with and for someone, you show that you genuinely care. The feeling of being supported and loved through prayer can leave a lasting impact on students.
- 5. Relay Information and Announcement:** Sometimes, important information and announcements need to be conveyed. However, it's wise to time these at the end of Church Group Time to avoid disrupting the spiritual atmosphere established during worship. This ensures that the Spirit remains undisturbed.





introduction: part 2

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

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MVOTW (Memory Verse of the Week)

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV).

Overall Theme Idea:

God loves us so much! Not only did he make the entire universe, but he also created humans - you and me - to be a part of his forever family. We strayed away from his loving care from the very beginning of our existence in the garden of Eden. But since God is a good, loving Father, he comes after us with his never ending, relentless love. He chases us down, leaves the ninety-nine, and gives up His greatest possession (his only son, Jesus) to get us back. The good news is that Jesus rose to life again after giving himself up for death on our behalf. When we trust and follow Jesus, we have a new life again, and we can forever praise our heavenly Father for never giving up on us - his relentless love!

Overview:

Day	Topic	Scriptures
Monday	The Beginning	Gen 1-2
Tuesday	The Fall	Gen 3, Lam. 3:1-21
Wednesday	God’s Relentless Love	Luke 12:1-10, John3, Lam 3:22-58
Thursday	The Big Party	Luke 15:11-32
Friday	Sharing God’s Relentless Love	1 Peter 4:10





monday

THE BEGINNING

GENESIS 1-2



Key Verse:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” - Genesis 1:1

Summary:

Even before God created the universe, He was already there forever, sharing perfect love within Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then, out of God’s great love and goodness, He made the universe and everything in it, including us. We are God’s favorite part of His creation, as we are made in His image. Before you were born, He intricately wove you together in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). God made you like Him (in His image) so that you could be in His forever loving family (Gen 1:26-27). When God looked at everything He had made, He said that it was “very good” (Gen 1:31).

Key Takeaway:

God is perfect love. He made us and loves us more than we could ever imagine.

Discussion Questions:

(Note to leaders: For the discussion questions in each session, feel free to provide your own answers to the questions. In some cases, it might help prompt the campers to think of their own stories and answers if you go first. Also, allow the campers to pass on any question that they may feel uncomfortable answering.)

1. Name some of your favorite parts of God’s creation.
2. What do you think it was like to live in the Garden of Eden?
3. Can you think of someone on earth who loves you very much? What does it mean that they love you very much?
4. Can you think of a time when you sensed God’s love? It may have come in the form of a sunrise, a dog licking your nose, or maybe while you prayed or sang a worship song. If you can’t think of a time, that’s perfectly fine. But feel free to share if you have a story of God’s love in your life



THE FALL

GEN 3, LAM 3:1-21

Key Verse:

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate (Gen 3:6).

Summary:

God is the moral standard of truth in the universe - so we use His truth as the standard by which all things are tested. The Greek word for “sin” in the Bible (hamartia) literally means, “to miss the mark.”⁽¹⁾ Imagine a bullseye target and the bullseye is God’s truth and perfect love. Anything off the mark of the bullseye is sin. And we have all done it (Rom 3:23). How do we hit the mark? Well, we can’t on our own accord. Only one person in history perfectly hit the target of truth and righteousness all the time - Jesus Christ. So the only way we can walk in God’s truth is to confess our sins to God and put our faith in Jesus as our Lord. Then He lives in us and it is His righteousness, not ours, that hits the mark of truth (Gal 2:20). The good news is that God loves us so much (His relentless love!) that He comes after us to rescue us from our sin. Listen to this promise in Lamentations: “For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone” (Lam 3:31-33, NIV).

Key Takeaway:

Sin is anything off the mark of God’s truth. Why? Because God is perfect truth and love. We have all sinned and can only return to God through his loving “rescue plan” - following and trusting Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever hit the bullseye on a target (such as archery)? How did it feel when you hit the bullseye? How did you feel when the arrow missed the target altogether?
2. What does it feel like when you do something wrong and you realize that it was a bad thing to do? Talk about how you know the difference between what is right and what is wrong in the world? What are the standards you go by?

¹ Joseph H. Thayer, Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1977), p. 30.

THE FALL

GEN 3, LAM 3:1-21

3. What is it like when someone does something wrong to you? What kinds of thoughts go through your head?
4. Discuss the following verse from Lamentations. What jumps out to you when you hear this verse? Why?

“For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone” (Lam 3:31-33, NIV).





Wednesday

GOD'S RELENTLESS LOVE

LUKE 15:1-10, JOHN 3, LAM 3:22-58

Key Verse:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ESV).

Summary:

Jesus suffered one of the worst experiences one could imagine: death on a cross. But he never did anything wrong. He lived a perfect life and yet he still experienced that death. It was not because he deserved to. He died on the cross because he loves us. We have all failed in life, like a juggler dropping their props everywhere. But God, in His relentless love, sent Jesus to rescue us from a life of sin. Ever since Adam and Eve first sinned, we all do the same and tend towards sin in our hearts. But when Jesus enters into our lives, we are changed completely. We are forgiven, cleansed, and saved. We are made new. We are given new hearts, new lives, and a new family (the family of God). Like the shepherd who left the ninety-nine sheep for the one and the woman who swept her whole house just to find one lost coin, so also God loves us and will pursue us with his relentless love.

Key Takeaway:

God loves you so much that he gave up his greatest possession - his only Son - so that you could be a part of His forever family.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have a "lost" story? Have you ever been lost at the store, at a concert, at a theme park, or any other place where you needed to be found? What did it feel like to be lost? What did it feel like when you were found? What happened when you were found? Did people rejoice?
2. Or how about a "rescue" story? Has anyone ever been injured, stuck, or otherwise needed to be rescued? What happened? Who helped you? What was it like to get rescued/healed/saved?
3. Would anyone here like to share their testimony story with the group? Maybe you put your faith in Jesus for the first time here at camp. Either way, we would love to hear your story of how you learned about Jesus and how Jesus saved you.





THURSDAY

THE BIG PARTY

LUKE 15:11-32

Key Verse:

“...let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:23b-24, ESV).

Summary:

The third of the “lost parables” is the longest and most detailed. We hear the story of a man with two sons. One son runs away, spends all his inheritance, and ends up another man’s servant, craving just some pig food. The other son stays with the father. When the runaway limps back home, hoping to just serve as a servant in his father’s house, he is greeted with the unrelenting love of his father. The father embraces his son, kills the best cow, and throws a big party. The other son is not amused. He scoffs at the party and wonders why he never got such treatment. The father reminded him that everything was already his and that when someone is lost and then found, they should celebrate with a big party! What sets this parable apart from the first two “lost parables” (lost sheep and lost coin) is that all three have a big party when what is lost is found, but this is the only one where there is someone refusing to party along. We should learn from this and avoid being the jealous older brother. No matter how good or deserving we think we are, we are all weak and in need of being found. There is a big party in heaven, and it starts on earth every time someone who is lost in sin is found again. Whether we are new to the Christian faith or have been Christians for a long time, we should always party and celebrate when anyone, even the worst of sinners, finds new life in Jesus.

Key Takeaway:

God loves us so much that no matter how far we stray, how bad we’ve sinned, or how hopeless we become, he is always there, looking and waiting for us, ready to embrace us and throw a big party for us. Join the party!





THURSDAY

THE BIG PARTY

LUKE 15:11-32

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever had a pet run away? How did that make you feel? Did you ever find them? If you did, what did it feel like to find them again?
2. How do you think the son felt when he was watching pigs eat and even he couldn't have any of the pig food?
3. What about the father? Talk about how he felt after his son ran away. How long would you wait for your runaway child to return? What would you do if and when they came back?
4. Have you ever seen someone get baptized in water? Maybe it was you yourself or someone you know. What was it like after they came up from the water? Did everybody cheer and praise God?
5. Heaven is one big party. Can you share about a time when you sensed a moment or experience that felt like heaven on earth? What was that like and what happened that made you feel that way?



SHARING GOD'S RELENTLESS LOVE

1 PETER 4:10



Key Verse:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” - 1 Peter 4:10

Summary:

The most important calling God gives all of us is to belong to Jesus Christ. But we also have specific callings in this world, according to how God made each of us. According to 1 Peter 4:10, each of us have been given different gifts in order to share God’s great love with others around us in the world. And bringing joy to others brings glory to God. In other words, God made you special with unique callings so that you can serve others and bring worship to God through your gifts and talents.

Key Takeaway:

God loves you and made you unique with certain gifts and talents. You may not even know what your gifts and talents are yet. But that’s OK. Use whatever you have, whatever you’ve been given, whoever you are, to the glory of God and in service to others in the world.

Discussion Questions:

Whether you find time for this discussion after the Friday morning session or if you do it on the bus ride home, please find the time to go through this exercise.

1. What is something you learned about God’s love this past week at camp?
2. Go around the circle of your group and give each camper and adult the chance to be in the “hot seat.” While each person is in the hot seat, everybody else should go around the circle and tell the hot seat person something positive they see in that person. In other words, use this as a chance to affirm one another in the God-given gifts that you spot in one another. We all need to hear others call out the gifts they see in us. This may take a while, so enjoy the process and close it out with a time of prayer that God would use all of you to serve Him and others with your unique gifts and talents.

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GET IN TOUCH



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