

# *generations:* *looking back into your future...*

generation • DEgeneration • REgeneration • COgeneration • generationS

## *Generations* camp ministry **2006 Teachers Guidebook**

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# Introduction

This *Teachers Guidebook* presents the standard *Generations* camp curriculum for 2006. Guidebook users include camp directors, chapel message presenters-preachers, chapel worship leaders, camp counselors (who will facilitate chapel debriefs), and Christian living class instructors. Camp directors should be sure that copies of this guidebook are distributed to the appropriate people. Note that there is a *Campers Handbook* and a chapel PowerPoint slide show that accompanies this guidebook. Copies of the handbook are to be given to all campers and staffers for personal use during camp and for future reference back home.

This 2006 curriculum bears the title, *Generations: looking back into your future...* and includes five chapel message manuscripts and two Christian living class outlines. The chapel messages are apologetic in nature—addressing questions concerning God, creation and salvation that kids get from friends, classmates, media, etc. The Christian living classes are designed to help campers focus on life transformation. Both the chapel messages and classes emphasize intergenerational mentoring as a way to advance our *Generations* camp ministry goal of connecting kids to their families and churches back home.

## Chapel Messages

The chapel messages point out that God is the "Generator" of all generations of all creation. Despite the current controversy concerning 'intelligent design' we proclaim that God is the one who generated (and continues to generate) the entire universe, including each of us. Indeed, "in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). This Generator is a glorious reality that all humans will encounter either in this life or the next. And there are major advantages for encountering and embracing Him now.

## generation • DEgeneration • REgeneration • COgeneration • generationS

The chapel messages take us back to an original creation in order that we might soar forward into the glorious future God has in store for us. As we peer back into the ancient past, we'll see how God's *generation* of a 'very good' creation descended into a state of *DEgeneration* because of mankind's fall. But God put in place a plan for *REgeneration* through the New Adam, Jesus Christ. And by accepting Jesus into our lives—becoming one with Him—we share in a regeneration now which will one day embrace the entire universe. As we await that ultimate transformation, God has not left us alone. We've been given his Generating Presence, the Holy Spirit of God to partner with us in *COgeneration*, enabling us to be and become infinitely more than we could be when we were held captive by the world, by Satan and by our own un-regenerated nature.

God regenerates us by placing us into the glorious Body of Christ, which by God's design, is one people, yet of multiple *generationS*—all age groups—all generations—living and loving together. In the church mentors help mentees and all work together to live the regenerated life in Christ and then to share that life with those who have not yet been regenerated. What a blessing to have mentors who pass on knowledge and life experience concerning living Christ's regenerated life in our degenerated world. And what a blessing to have them help us be *co-generators*—passing this life on to others, including future generations...continuing a cycle of generation that will continue into an eternity in glory.

The last chapel message places a particular emphasis on helping campers get connected to mentors back home within their family and/or church. This message is the 'capstone' in a chapel series designed to provide an inescapable vision of hope, love and comfort that will stay with each camper for life. The series is designed to present the gospel, defend the gospel, extend the gospel, and further the gospel—so that it will 'explode' out of our camps through scores of teens who will make lifelong commitments to live and share the gospel in their lives, homes and local churches.

## **Christian Living Classes**

The camp teaching curriculum includes two Christian living classes designed to apply personally, and in a small group discussion-based format, what is discussed in the chapel messages.

The first class, *Doing me, being me*, leads campers to consider how their 'doing' (their external behavior in everyday life) reflects their 'being' (who they really are, deep down inside). This class will pick up on what is learned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapel about a person's 'family tree' and will encourage campers to get linked up with a mentor in their family and/or church back home.

The second class, *Free to be Christ in me*, encourages campers to live in the reality of God's gift of freedom from the slavery of sin. It will equip them to be more Christ-like in their life choices—"walking with the Spirit" rather than in the "way of the flesh" in the real world of their lives back home.

May God bless the efforts of each *Generations* camp as we endeavor to win young people to Christ, to build them up in Christ, and to equip them to be disciplemaking followers of Christ!

# generation:

*is anybody out there?*

***generation*** (noun) *the process of coming or bringing into being ; that which has been created.*

***generator*** (noun) *one that brings into being*

The main purpose of this chapel is to give campers a sense of God's all surrounding existence and his personal love for each of them. We want campers to realize—to "feel"—that God is intimately and personally involved with each of them.

Have you ever seen a giant generator? It's a machine with turbines and wheels that produces an incredible amount of power in the form of electricity. There are lots of generators out there—it takes a lot of them to power our world! Lots of things would stop if they stopped generating!

Did you ever wonder how much power it takes to keep the whole universe going? Can you even imagine how big our universe is? Some say 10 billion light years across. A light year is the distance light travels in one year going 186,000 miles a second. That's 11,160,000 miles a minute, 669,600,000 an hour, 16,070,400,000 a day and 5,865,696,000,000 (trillion) miles a year. Multiplying that by 10 billion , you get 5,865,696,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 miles across! That's 6 decillion miles! Not a thousand; or a million; or a billion; or a trillion; or a quadrillion; or even a quintillion. No, it's 12 more zeros after a quintillion—a universe that is 6 decillion miles across! And still growing!!

But what got it started? And what keeps it going? Doesn't it have to have some sort of generator? One that is super huge? And what would happen if it stopped?—and maybe it's not an it, but a who that is doing this generating. And why has this generator gone to all the trouble to generate the universe which includes our earth and it includes you and me? Is all of this an accident? Or is it by design?

The Bible opens with a magnificent statement:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

How simple those words are; yet how profound and deep! Dyson Freeman, one of today's most brilliant scientists, writes that nature's laws are marked by "the greatest mathematical simplicity and beauty." Though we're not scientists, we can appreciate what Freeman says. If there is no Designer—no Creator God — then how is it that our universe can be a law-abiding system marked by such majestic beauty and simplicity? And if there is no giant "Generator" cranking out all this power, how is the universe still growing and producing?

Many scientists are asking these questions. In an article posted at, Rick Deems writes<sup>1</sup>:

Does science lead us down a road that ends in the naturalistic explanation of everything we see? In the nineteenth century, it certainly looked as though science was going in that direction. . . . However, 20<sup>th</sup> century and now 21<sup>st</sup> century science is leading us back down the road of design - not from a *lack* of scientific explanation, but from scientific explanation that requires an appeal to the extremely unlikely - something that science does not deal well with. As a result of the recent evidence in support of design, many scientists now believe in God.

## God the "Generator"

Here are some of the facts that have convinced many scientists that God has designed and now sustains the universe:

- We are part of a solar system (a bunch of planets located around a star like the sun), which in turn is part of a spiral shaped galaxy. There are billions of other stars in the spiral "arms" of this galaxy which rotate around a center.
- Our solar system "just happens" to be specially located—near the edge of the galaxy in a relatively unpopulated region between two spiral arms. It's *the only location* within a galaxy where stars do not drift in and out of the spiral arms as the galaxy rotates around its own center. And for some reason our solar system's own rotation is somehow *perfectly in sync* with our galaxy's rotation. Otherwise, we'd drift in and out of the spiral arms filled with stars and the conditions needed to support life would not exist. Someone had to design all of this. And that Some-One is indeed out there!
- And if the "big" or "macro" world isn't amazing enough, lets go to the invisible "micro" world—the world of electrons and protons. These are the tiny particles that revolve around the nucleus of atoms, which by the way make up everything. By the way, just for discussion sake, here's

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<sup>1</sup> Posted at [www.godandscience.org](http://www.godandscience.org) Feel free to use the examples that you would find most useful and to point the campers to the appendix of their camper guide for more examples..

how big an atom is. There are more than a billion atoms on the period at the end of this sentence. Imagine trying to study just one atom on that period. By the way, there are 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms in your body. That's between a quintillion and decillion atoms--456 trillion trillion in your head alone!

Following are additional descriptions of God's design of our amazing universe. You may have time to use a few more of these—they are all included in the Camper Guidebook appendix for the future reference of the campers.

- We have a *perfectly sized* sun. Stars smaller than our Sun could not support life. Their small size would require us to be much closer to the sun. We would have to move so rapidly around the sun that our year would be longer than our day. Venus takes 243 Earth-days to rotate on its axis and make one single day. This results in extremes of temperatures on the surface of this planet all in one day, and it prohibits the survival of life. But not so on our perfectly designed earth with its perfectly designed sun.
- Ever see the movie "Deep Impact" and wonder why we're not being bombarded by meteors all this time? Your Solar System just 'happens' to be protected from cometary bombardment by two giant planets (Jupiter and Mars) that just "happen" to be in precisely the right spot. Scientists estimate that the Earth would receive approximately 10,000 times its current level of comet impacts if these planets were not where they are.
- Jupiter is a very unusual planet in our galaxy. All other giant planets like Jupiter are found much closer to their star than Jupiter is. In fact, most are closer to their star than the Earth is to the Sun. But if Jupiter were as close to the Sun as planets their sizes normally are, the Earth would have been ejected from the Solar System. For some reason, it's exactly where it needs to be to protect the earth, and to keep it from shooting out into space.
- The Earth and moon are located exactly where they need to be to keep Jupiter and Mars and Venus from "ejecting" from our solar system, and breaking up the whole system.
- We have what scientists call "an impossibly large moon" that could have been formed only by a very precise collision with a large planet. Normally, a planet colliding like this would have bounced off and exploded and turned into dust and rings like those around Saturn. But this collision bounced off "exactly" the distance it needed to stay together, stay in perfect orbit, and give us the exact tug we needed for tides and waves and the exact timing we need for the exact length of a day!
- Protons and electrons are even smaller things that orbit around the centers of just one of these atoms. They have to exist in an exact balance, because of their electrical charge. An uneven balance causes them to cancel each other out, and causes matter to not be able to hold together and form.

- Scientists have come to see that at the beginning of the universe, there were exactly the number of electron and protons that there had to be for this universe to hold together and come together and stay together in the first place! And the chance for that happening by itself is not very big!
- The chance that the precise balance in the number of protons and the number of electrons just came "into being" by itself at the existence at the beginning of the universe is so small that scientists say the following analogy would picture that chance:

Cover the entire North American continent in dimes all the way up to the moon, a height of about 239,000 miles (in comparison, the money to pay for the U.S. federal government debt would cover one square mile less than two feet deep with dimes). Next, pile dimes from here to the moon on a billion other continents the same size as North America. Paint one dime red and mix it into the billions of piles of dimes. Blindfold a friend and ask him to pick out one dime. The odds that he will pick the red dime are one in  $10^{37}$ . And that's the "chance" that the exact number of protons and electrons needed would have existed at the creation of the universe!

Here's the point: God has not only generated a unique, one of a kind, incredibly fine tuned universe. He's made another incredible, wonderful, unique, one-of-a-kind creation that he wants to see live in Eternity with Him forever: that creation is YOU! You are being "generated" right now by the Generator of all the universe. In fact, that's exactly what the Bible says...

#### **John 1:**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The word for *made* actually means "*generated*" in the original language. It means brought into being; "came to be." That's why they named the first book of the Bible "Genesis." It's a book about beginnings. It comes from the same word—and talks about the **generation** of the universe, and the **generations** of people that followed! Those generations don't just happen to be. They were made—and are still being made; in an ongoing way, by a Generator—God—who is still keeping it going!

#### **Acts 17**

<sup>28</sup>For in him we live and move and have our being.'

#### **Col 1**

<sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

If God wasn't holding the 7,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 atoms that make up your body, you simply wouldn't be! But he is—very intentionally. In fact He was there at the instant of your creation! And how well does he know you?

Let's read what David said when, in awe, he considered the enormity of this God, his creator, his life support, his sustainer, his Generator:

### Psalm 139

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in—behind and before;  
you have laid your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"
- <sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.  
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
- <sup>16</sup> your eyes saw my unformed body.  
All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them, they would out number the grains of sand.  
When I awake, I am still with you.

The writer of this psalm was overwhelmed when he realized something everlasting like God knew *him* so well. In fact, he was so overwhelmed that he ended up praying:

- <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

He had this inkling—this hint. He came from something everlasting. And this "something" was trying to lead him into life everlasting too! You're one of God's greatest "generations." You're sharing this planet with many "generations." He's your Generator. When he originally made it all, he didn't just say it was good! He said it was "very good!" That includes what you are supposed to be! Does that describe you, and the rest of his creation? If not, what happened? Is God to blame? We'll see more about that tomorrow.

## **Chapel 1 debrief**

The chapel debriefs should be held after each chapel. Following are questions that may be helpful in getting campers talking and praying about the chapel 1 message:

1. Do you believe God exists? Why or why not?
2. What evidence of design do you see in the universe?
3. Have you ever had a miracle occur in your life?
4. Let's go through Psalm 139 together—have you had any experiences that show how the things written there are true?
5. What dreams and desires do you think that God has for you?

# DEgeneration:

*who made this mess anyway?*

***degeneration***: *a: having declined (as in nature, character, structure, or function) from an ancestral or former state; b : having sunk to a condition below that which is normal to a type; especially having sunk to a lower and usually corrupt and vicious state.*

The main purpose of this chapel is to help campers understand the following concepts:

- What you do (your external behavior) says a lot about who you are (your internal being)
- What's been passed down to you through the generations via your 'family tree', has a lot to do with who you are and what you now choose to do.
- Even though you have this broken and distorted inheritance, you are not hopelessly imprisoned by it. You can be set free to be "Christ in me."

You can tell a lot about yourself by what you do. Originally we human beings were made by God to both *be* something and *do* things that were proclaimed by God to be "very good" (Genesis 1:31). But a lot of what we see today—both in our own lives, and in the world around us—isn't "very good" is it? In fact, some of it looks "very bad." So what accounts for this 'degeneration'? Who made this mess, anyway? And are you hopelessly imprisoned in the way things are?

## Let's play a game called "WHO AM I?"

**Note:** In this segment you'll get the audience calling out the names of people/characters shown on screen. The idea is to get them to think in terms of identifying the individuals by what they do. Two popular personalities are included just to get the ball rolling. Then some fairly recognizable Disney characters are shown. With them, you'll want to lead the discussion to not only address who they are based on what they *do*, but on what their creator created them to do. The point you're trying to get them to see is this: What you *do* says a lot about who you really *are*. And you were created by a Creator to be and do something specifically. From this vantage point, we'll lead to the next segment of the game.

• WHO AM I?



Tom Cruise

• WHO AM I?



Brittany Spears

• WHO AM I?



Sneezy

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do (I sneeze!)

• WHO AM I?



Grumpy

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do (I complain!)

• WHO AM I?



Dopey

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do (I do dumb things!)

• WHO AM I?



Sleepy

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do (I sleep; a lot!)

• WHO AM I?



Happy

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do (I'm always upbeat!)

• WHO AM I?



Bashful

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do, or in this case, don't do (I don't assert!)

- WHO AM I?



Doc

How can you tell who I am? You can tell who I am by what I do. In fact, I can tell you who you are, by WHAT YOU DO!

- WHO AM I?



I'm Walt Disney, the Creator of all these cartoon characters—the one who created them to do certain things in the fantasy world I created for them. Who am I in relationship to all the characters above? I'm their Creator.

How can you tell who anybody is? Often, it's by what they do! And the created things in Disney's world "do" what their Creator created them to do! And maybe this is true in God's world too! Or maybe it SHOULD be true—maybe we should do what we were created by God to do!

## Let's play "WHO AM I?, part 2"

Privately, ask yourself the question: Who am I? Who am I based on what I do? WHAT DOES WHAT I DO SAY ABOUT WHO I AM?

List in your guidebook some good things you do. Now list some things you aren't proud of.

What does what you do say about who you are—or who you think you are? What you do says a lot about who you are! Do you like everything you see?

## Let's now play "WHO AM I?, part 3"

What does this world "do"? What does that say about what it *is*—what it has *become*? And why does the world do what it does? And why do we individually do what we do? Since we can't ask the world at large, let's ask its Generator, God, in His Word. God's answer picks up where we left off in chapel yesterday:

### Romans 1

<sup>19</sup> . . . What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

It's so obvious, the Bible says. People are without excuse. But why are so many people looking for excuses to not believe Him? Here are some reasons.

- Some people who are trying to prove that there is no God really don't want there to be a God.
- Some people don't believe because they're scared of Him.
- Some just believe there is no God because that's what someone told them. They've never really checked it out themselves.
- Finally, some people are angry, because of the evil and suffering in the world. Since they've refused to have anything to do with God for a very long time, they think He is in some sense to blame. And they plan on avoiding him, and think it's OK to do so.

But is it really OK to avoid God? The passage in Roman explains:

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Sure, you can avoid God. You can chose not to "glorify" him or connect to him. And here's what you'd be like: Like a machine that pulled its own plug. You'd just "be" for a while. Eventually rust. And never quite function exactly right. *And eventually forget what you were supposed to be.* That's what mankind did and has done as a whole. And as a result of that choice, the machine called "mankind" became "broken"—DEgenerated. *"Fallen from a former state."* World evil and suffering followed. God didn't do it. We did! God simply let us have "our" way!

<sup>24</sup>So God said, in effect, "If that's what you want, that's what you get." It wasn't long before they were living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. . . <sup>26</sup>Worse followed. **Refusing to know God, they soon didn't know how to be human either . . .**

DEgeneration set in!

*"having declined from an ancestral or former state;"*

*"having sunk to a condition below "*

*"having sunk to a lower and usually corrupt and vicious state . . ."*

What does that look like?

- *women didn't know how to be women*
- *men didn't know how to be men*
- *<sup>27</sup>Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another*
- *women with women*
- *men with men*
- *And then they paid for it—oh how they paid for it—emptied of God and love, godless and loveless wretches*

No matter what movies like "Brokeback Mountain" tell you, and no matter how attractive or popular the stars are that play in them, there are some things that people are now calling good that are "degenerations" of what God originally wanted them to be. Distortions. Things that will always "miss the mark."

<sup>28</sup>Since they didn't bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. <sup>29</sup>And then all hell broke loose.

That's where hell came from, by the way. Life separated from God is hell! You can look at the rest of the list later if you like, but the point is this—God didn't create the evil in this world. Man did! And we've inherited a lot of it as a result of our family tree, and the tree we've become as a result.

### **My family tree**

We all have a family tree—its our genealogy—and it's also the 'back story' of what we just read in Romans. It tells us a lot about who we are and why we do what we do.

In Genesis 1 and 2, we're told that after God created mankind, He placed us in the Garden of Eden. There were two trees in that garden, symbolic of a choice of lifestyle. One tree was the "tree of life" and it symbolized the choice of living in relationship with and dependence upon God. The other tree was the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" and it symbolized the choice of living independently from God—relying upon ourselves and our own experiences and choices. Mankind was given freedom of choice—but God lovingly taught Him to: "Be smart. Chose me. Chose life."

But there was another force in the Garden—Satan, appearing in the form of a serpent. He suggested to our first parents that God couldn't be trusted. And they listened to him and followed him instead of God. The result is what we call the "fall of man." It's the way of living off the tree of knowledge rather than the tree of life. It's the way of *our* family tree.

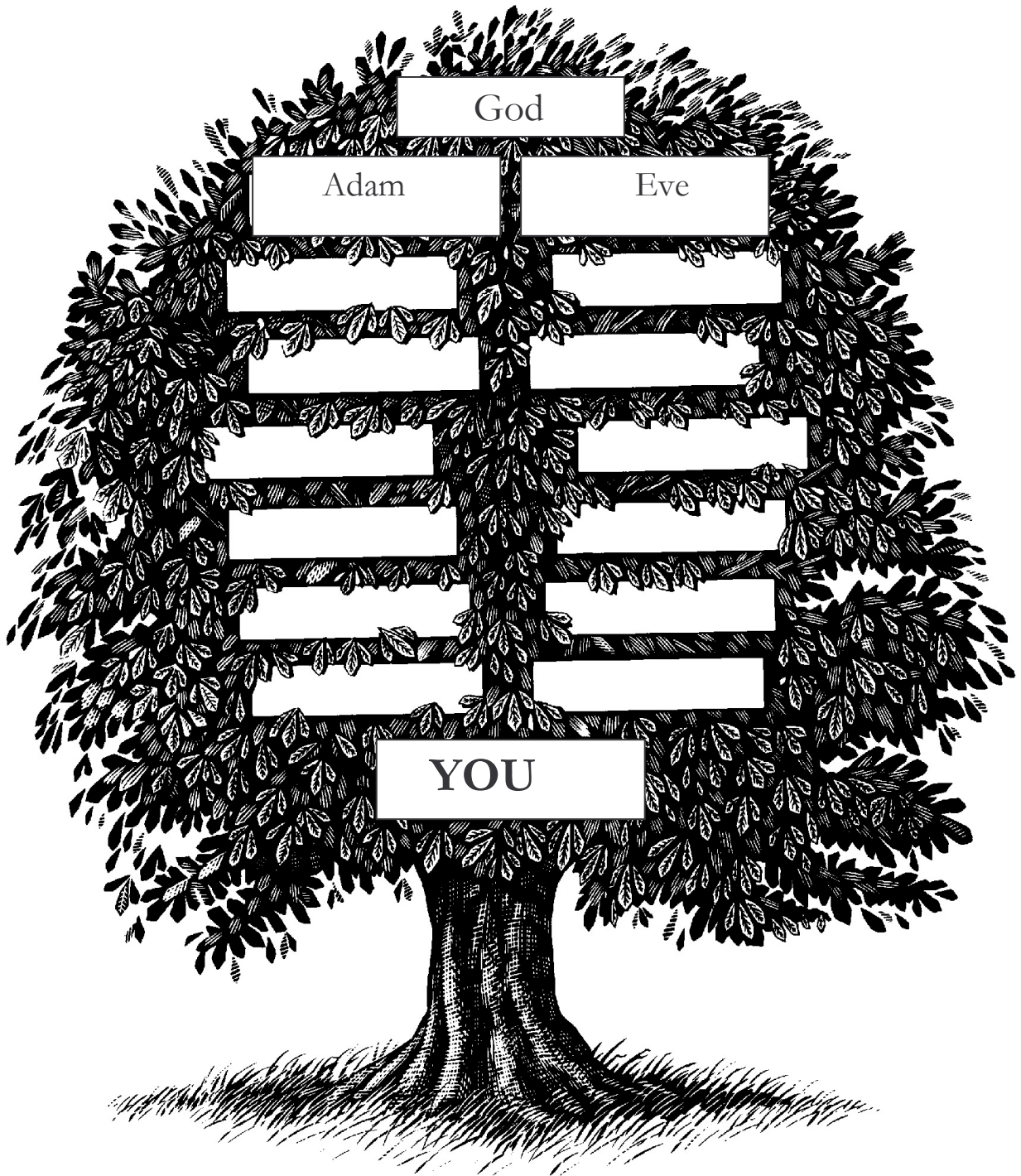
#### **Genesis 3**

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. "

What was the result of their choice? Well, they didn't gain real wisdom. Because they sinned, instead of getting wisdom and life, they got what the Bible calls "the curse."

<sup>17</sup> To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. <sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Suffering, hard times, and then death. Not because of God's choice, but because of ours. We've fallen into a state of degeneration—we call it 'human nature'—and it's been passed down to each of us through our 'family tree' [refer to illustration—campers will have a chance to fill in the blanks on this tree in the Christian living class]. And so, we, just like Adam and Eve, need regeneration! We need a new family tree!



## **Who made this mess anyway?**

God is not responsible for world evil. Our choices, made independently, made without the help and power and presence of God in our lives, are responsible. As a result, the whole of creation became DISTORTED! WARPED! SKEWED!

It is undergoing an ever worsening state of DEgeneration!

The whole universe became subject to death and decay (Romans 8:20) Mankind is still in the image of God, but distorted. He still dreams for more because he comes from God. And God wants more for us too! God had very big dreams for His creation. And he wasn't going to leave things in their state of degeneration.

Tomorrow, we'll see what God has done about it and in Christian living class we'll spend some more time thinking about our family tree. Stay tuned—God does not leave us as we are!

## **Chapel 2 debrief**

1. What could you learn from thinking about your family tree?
2. Are any of you related to anyone that is famous or well known?
3. How does what you do say about who you are?
4. Do any of you have role models back home that you would like to grow up to become like?
5. Do you live near that person, or see that person often?
6. Can you see how that its man choices, not God's, that hurt and suffering are in the world today?

# REgeneration:

## *the new beginning*

**regeneration 1** : *an act or the process of forming or creating again;*  
**2** : *spiritually reborn or converted;* **3** : *restored to a better, higher, or more worthy state .*

The main purpose of this chapel is to share with the campers the good news of the REgeneration that God offers. The chapel concludes with an invitation to personally embrace and receive God's regenerating power by accepting Christ as Savior and Lord.

This world needs to be "fixed." It got "broken" after its original creation because our first parents made choices without involving God. DEgeneration resulted and spread to all of us down through the generations. And the DEgeneration didn't just spread to people. It has spread to the whole universe as well:

**Romans 8:20** *Even "the creation was subjected to. . . bondage to decay."*

Imagine the dilemma: A broken humanity, suffering because it chose sin and death and pain. A universe set aflame, eventually self-destructing. A whole creation subject to bondage to decay. Because of a choice to leave God out! But that wasn't *all* God had planned . . .

John 3: 16 . . . *for God so loved the world . . .*

And God is a Generator that won't be stopped! Nobody pulls the plug on Him!

He is not just its start up "Generator." He's also its *REgenerator*! He can—and has—restored it. He can—and has—started a process creating it again *that no one can stop*. We can be created again. We can be REgenerated. We can be born again. In fact, we have to be!

And we're going to explain this in the chapel today.

## Going Back—to Fix the Future<sup>2</sup>

Fasten your seatbelts. To explain it all, God inspired the apostle John to go back to the Beginning—the *real* Beginning of all things. To a close-up-and-personal view of God. God as He really is—apart from anything else that has been created.

Are you ready for this close up? God's about to give you "word picture" of Himself.

**John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Here's a look at the eternal God, close up and personal. God is One—God is God alone. But there was a "Word" who was *with* God. And who at the same time *was* God.

Now let's freeze the frame on this descriptive picture of God: *With* and *Was*. *Was* and *With*. Two but One. One but Two. Pssst – don't stop counting yet. There's yet a third personality (a "Three") that is one with the One God. But we'll get to Him later.

We can't understand this perfectly in our current human state. God's personal complexity, his "oneness" but "threeness" is way beyond our ability to comprehend. Some say that's a reason to not believe in God, that he's just too "confusing." But think about it. What if you asked a baby in the womb to comprehend her mother before she's born? She can't. She can know that something all around her exists, that whatever it is feeds her, warms her, and protects her. But she can't comprehend her mother's complexity. In the womb, she can't even see her face or even realize what a face is! And that's not even to mention trying to comprehend that the loud noise she hears from time to time after about the fifth month in the womb is the voice of something called a "father," who one day might walk her down the aisle and give her away to something called a "man." She's just aware of what she's able to comprehend with the limited sense of perception that she has and eyes that haven't even been opened yet!

God and his world is like that to us. He's far more complex than we can imagine.<sup>3</sup> Right now, we "see through a glass darkly" (1 Cor 13). Just because he's complex, and our human limitation can't quite apprehend him, is no reason to not believe in God or to not have a relationship with him. No more reason than a baby refusing a relationship with its mom.

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<sup>2</sup> Many of us baby boomers are familiar with the Michael J. Fox movie "Back to the Future." He went back in time to fix the future. If it's not considered too dated to be of value to today's audience, perhaps, a clip from that movie, or an improvised drama created by each camp's worship team, would be appropriate here.

<sup>3</sup> Here is another possible skit. Having a few counselors/staffers/dorms dressed as babies, picturing "twins" or "triplets" or "quadruplets" in the womb, trying to figure out whether mom really exists, what she's like. They can float near the heart, hear a beating drum (heart beat) and say, "What's that?" and come up with crazy conclusions. They can do the same with other organs (e.g., "Something stinks here, what's that?"). Then they can hear the rumblings of voices out there--not only "mom's"---but a heavier one. Did she call him, "Dad?" In no way believing anything called "Dad" exists. And declaring, right before birth, that we know everything and "That's that!" These guys must be "born" "again" to see what's really out there! Hopefully, this could be another apologetic visual.

Let's continue the "word picture" close up:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. "He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being (**and that means were generated--Generations**)<sup>4</sup> through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being" (**were generated. . . Generations**).

And now, brace yourself. The close up is going to get even closer.

The greatest event in all history is about to be spoken about.

It's not going to say that God sent Moses to tell us all about how we can start obeying good laws and some how that will fix this degenerated mess. It's not going to say that he sent Buddha to describe Him and teach the way to karma, eternal wholeness and peace. It's not going to say that He sent Mohammed, or Hindi or some other great teacher to teach us. No, what he did is what makes Christianity unique. God gave mankind another picture of God. A "human picture."

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh.

God didn't just send a teacher to tell flesh what God was like.

No, God "became" flesh. He showed man, in human terms what God was like.

The ultimate "generation" occurred.

The ultimate "re-generation!"

**God became flesh! And He did more than just "show" mankind what God was like!**

He started humanity—and creation—all over again *by becoming one with it*. In a way that would count for everybody and everything.

The Word **became** flesh. God **became** one of us. The Word **became** Jesus Christ.

Your God became *your Brother! And did everything perfectly for you!*

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<sup>4</sup> to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being



*Silently by night,  
in mortal flesh enshrouded,  
He who framed the mountains  
draws first breath.  
Far from human sight,  
the Promise ne'er forgotten  
Is in love begotten  
to conquer death.*

At this point it would be good if the speaker led the entire camp in singing:

"O come let us Adore Him."  
"O come let us Adore Him."  
"O come let us Adore Him."  
"Christ! The Lord!"

And then lead the group in a prayer of thanksgiving for the coming of Christ.

The Bible says Christ became the new man---the "New Adam." One who would start things all over again. One who could, and would, do things right on behalf of all of us.

**1Co 15:45**

So also it has been written, "The" first "man", Adam, "became a living soul;" the last Adam a life-giving Spirit.

God started over! He saved us! And the universe too. He became one of us. He fulfilled all the righteous requirements a Creator God could justly require of man. He did it on our behalf.

Mankind didn't understand Him—in fact, they killed him. But he forgave them—even while he was on the cross they put Him on. Death couldn't hold Him down since He was One with God. After three days in the tomb, he exploded back into life. Regenerated, resurrection life. The kind of life God wanted to give us in the first place.

He can appear and disappear at will. He can go to His Father and be back with humans in no time at all. He can live outside of time, and inside it too. He can eat. He can cook. He can walk and talk. He can build a fire. He can go fishing with you. And He can and does sit on a throne, right next to God, praying all day long, for you! He never gets tired. He never decays. He never wears out. He never gets bored. He always can find something to do. Or be perfectly happy just doing nothing. He can eat and not sick. He can do anything that's good to do.

He can do all these things—and he wants to give all things back to me and to you!

No matter what anyone will ever tell you from this point on, there is someone out there! He's a saving Some-One. He didn't make this mess! We did! But He's fixed it. Through the regeneration, the rebirth of all things, through His Son Jesus Christ, God is saving mankind, saving the universe! And YOU too!

All we have to do is accept this gift from our Father, and willingly give our Life back to Him. Putting our full trust in him to be our regenerator, our God, our Savior.

## The Good News

This glorious truth is so easy to accept, so easy to share in, so easy to receive!

### Romans 3

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . .

### Romans 6

<sup>23</sup> ...the wages of sin is death

**But . . .**

### 2 Cor 5:14 - one died for all – Jesus Christ!

So we don't have to die, like we deserve, for our sins. God will count Jesus' death for us. And further, God tells me and you:

### John 1

<sup>12</sup>. . . to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

You can be born again, from above, spiritually. *You* can be regenerated! You can become a child of God. Jesus told Nicodemus, and us, we must become one with Christ's life, which he freely offers us. In fact to live, he says:

### John 3

<sup>7</sup> . . . 'You must be born again.'

And you can be!  
You can start all over.  
And live life anew.  
In Jesus Christ.

### Note:

At this point, the chapel speaker should make an invitation to receive Christ. This invitation should be brief and might include some personal testimonies—but be mindful of the time and don't give another sermon.

The invitation must be heart-felt and sincere—from the speaker's own heart, and not with words provided from a script. Each camper needs to be taught that they don't have to be trapped in the lives they've inherited or even chosen—we can all be regenerated! We can all be born again! This is a chance for those who want to accept Christ to do so.

We'll leave it to the discretion of each presenter as to how to conduct this part of the service. He can make this an "altar call" if he wishes, offering salvation and asking those who want to accept Christ to step forward. Or he can simply make this an opportunity for those who have never accepted Christ and want to know more to step forward, or to bow their heads in worship at their chair, or whatever seems appropriate and comfortable.

We don't want folks that are shy to be turned away by the format—so be sensitive to their needs. It is suggested that the background music to this portion be an audio track or video of "Who Am I" by Casting Crowns. The song is a powerful musical answer to the question we've been asking over and over again in this chapel series. The appropriate answer to the question "Who Am I?" is the answer given in this song and the answer we want all to come to: I AM YOURS. I'm not just an animal, or a bunch of atoms living alone in the universe. I am made in the Image of God. I need to reconnect.

One option for responding to the invitation is to provide a place of prayer for people to go to following the sermon to meet with the chaplain or other staffers, or the meeting could be with counselors in the debrief.

If it is done by counselors in the debrief that follows this chapel, the gospel can be summarized again (see the gospel presentation in the appendix). If it is done by the chaplain/message giver with the group that came forward, it could be done either immediately after the chapel or in a special lunch time meeting with those that came forward. Staff members can be a part of this session, so that each one accepting Christ can PERSONALLY do so in prayer with a personal prayer partner. But be selective about the staff members chosen for this honor and responsibility.

Both approaches have merit. One would ensure the follow up with exactly the tone and mood the message giver/chaplain would see as appropriate. The other gives the counselors the honor---and opportunity---to be the ones that actually present the gospel personally and personally pray with the one's accepting Christ. This would probably be excellent growth training for them, and is a reminder of the caliber of individuals we're looking for in the counselor role.

## Chapel 3 debrief

For this debrief, take an approach that is appropriate to the format of the invitation. Following is one possible approach.

We've seen that the awesome creation that's out there demands a Generator, a Creator. We've seen that he not only created the vast universe, but he's created each of us for a specific place in his plan. We've seen how his creation got "stolen". Now answer these questions:

1. Who does the Bible Say was in the Beginning? (The Word)
2. Who was this character with? (God)
3. Who was this character? (God)
4. What did he do? (Make everything)
5. What was in Him? (Life)
6. What did He become? (Flesh)
7. Who did he become? (Jesus Christ)

Before the Beginning of time, God and "The Word" existed in eternity and in marvelous unity. Together with the Holy Spirit they are the 'Trinity'—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God; three persons. Together they generated the universe. And this Word—the eternal Son of God became flesh: a human male, born in the womb of Mary. Fully human and fully God. And a new beginning for all creation.

8. Christ came to make us free. Romans 8:21 says that the whole creation will be freed from the slavery of corruption to the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Does "corruption" just mean the physical decay that leads to death, or could it mean living in corrupt ways? What are examples of "corrupt" ways? Of "life-giving" ways?
9. What do the following Scriptures imply about what happens when we give ourselves to Christ?

**2Co 5:17** - Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

**Rev 21:5** Then the one sitting on the throne said: I am making everything new. Write down what I have said. My words are true and can be trusted.

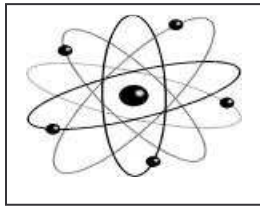
God has taken what was turned upside down by the fall, and turned it right sized up in Jesus Christ. He's done it perfectly in his Son, the one who is able to regenerate all things back to what the creation was originally supposed to be. God set the creation free through his Son—through Regeneration of the Degeneration that had taken place to his original GENERATION. And there's more to come! no matter what your past or situation, you can be born again, started over, made anew---now, from this moment on. But like a newborn baby, you'll need help to grow up. And God has provided ways which we'll discuss in the chapels yet to come.

# COgeneration:

*free to be Christ in me*

***cogeneration*** : the production of electricity using heat from an industrial process or using the steam from electric power generation as a source of heat; the production of good by using the power of another.

The main purpose of this chapel message is to introduce the campers to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and to the life they can have in co-ministering with Christ through the Spirit. The message also provides an introduction to the topic of baptism.



Let's talk about electricity. Electricity is a form of energy that starts with atoms. Atoms are too small to see, but they make up everything around us (including you). The atom has three tiny parts: protons, neutrons, and electrons. The center of the atom has at least one proton and one neutron. At least one electron travels around the center of the atom. Electricity can be created by forcing electrons to flow from atom to atom.

That's what happens when lightning strikes. Electrons are flowing from atom to atom, actually from the ground up to the sky, because of the power generated in a thunderstorm. Electricity is powerful. It's awesome. It can kill. But it can also be harnessed to do great good.

And that's what electric power plants do. They make electrons in atoms flow by spinning copper wires near a magnet in a machine called a generator. They use power to make that happen, power that in itself generates steam and heat. And sometimes they capture the steam and heat that's generated from making power to make more power. And that's called COgeneration. The production of more power ---using the power of another! *Sounds a lot like what God does to us with Jesus Christ!*

## **You've got the power!**

God wants to share His life and generating power with you and me. He wants to COgenerate His regenerated life in us. He doesn't want you *to have* to be just the "broken you" anymore. He wants you to be able to say: "I've been set free. Set free to be the Christ IN ME!" Free to be everything Christ created you to be, and to reach your maximum potential. Free to be what

you could be if you let Christ freely live in you, both now, and forever. Let's look at how "COgeneration" applies to not only electricity, but also to the life we can now share with Him.

## Sharing in the Divine Nature

A lot of people think that the way to become everything we were meant to become is to tap into the "power that lies within" or to simply tap into "the seeds of greatness" or the "god in you." But as we've seen from the previous chapels, mankind cut himself off from God. There's no "god" or "greatness" in us naturally. In fact, what you find is even a degeneration of what was originally very good. We're still in the image of God. But we're also in a state of degeneration.<sup>5</sup>

It took Christ's coming to regenerate and reconnect a broken and disconnected creation to the Eternal Generator. Like we saw yesterday, this is what He did. He gave up the privileges of His Divine Nature for a while, so he could become completely what we are. He shared in our flesh—and became one with us. Now that He's resurrected, His glorified flesh now fully shares in and expresses God's Divine Nature.

And since He's one with us--here's something incredibly crazy, but true: We can too! We can "take part" or share in the very nature of God! We can co-minister with Christ. We can co-generate good with Him!

### 2 Peter 1

<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate (take part, share) in the divine nature

You can plug into the life of God. You and I can partner with God. He does this by literally moving into you with the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of Triune God.

Here's what Christ told his disciples would happen to those who obeyed His command to receive Him and all he wants to freely give them:

### John 14

<sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Christ and the Father move into us by "the Counselor", the Holy Spirit of God, "the Spirit of truth." Earlier in this chapter, Christ explained:

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<sup>5</sup> We're like a car without wheels. We can "go," sort of. But it's a broken way to travel. We need to be fixed. And that's what God did in Christ.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Before Jesus came the Bible had talked about the Holy Spirit and was "aware" of "the Spirit of God." But it didn't know Him like the Son of God was going to introduce Him. The Holy Spirit was a "He," a Third Person along with the Father and the Son (God and the Word). We can't take you through all the Scriptures that talk about him, but here's what he can do:

He can talk and think. He can be happy. He can be sad. He's got a personality; He is a personality. In fact, that's why bible scholars call him a "Person"—because he has *PERSON*ality. He's the Third Person (not *people*, but *person*) of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). Think about this. The very Spirit of God, living in you and doing what God naturally "does" inside of and through you. Bringing the Father and Son to you and in you. Not taking over you or blotting you out. But moving into your heart and life. And doing inside you and with you what God will tend to do! Sharing his life and nature. Co-ministering inside of you. Co-generating with you.

Remember, what you do says a lot about you. So what does God "do"?

God is the "Generator" of the universe. He's always creating things, always renewing things, always making things grow, always making things come to life and renewal. He's having a blast. In fact, He's kind of a non-stop Big-Bang. A non-stop Blast of Life and good and growth and joy. He's always expanding things. The Bible says His kingdom will never end. He inhabits eternity. He's everywhere, all the time at the same time. Nothing holds Him back. Nothing holds Him in—he's free. And His freedom always produces more freedom and more good. He's filled with love, joy, peace, happiness, fun. And he cares and is as close to anybody as anybody can ever be. He's never alone. He lives forever. And makes things better and better. Constantly new.

And this is what He wants to do inside of and through you and with you—to make you and things around you new and just like he is. To expand things. To grow things. To push the limitations of the voices that say "you can't." To renew things. To help do things that are going to be wonderful and last forever---through and in you!

God wants to co-minister, COgenerate inside of you, with you and through you.

## Stepping into the life of God

Power plants get their power from some power source. That source might be coal, oil, natural gas, and nuclear energy. But sometimes they harness the power in water. They even build giant dams to create giant water ponds from which water flows generating huge amounts of power. Like the Hoover Dam, which has created a 29.8 million acre pool of water behind it. Now that's a lot of harnessed, focused POWER!

God has made AN ETERNITY OF FOCUSED POWER AVAILABLE to you, through a little water, TOO: **The water of baptism.**

### Romans 6

4 We were therefore *buried with* him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be **united with him** in his resurrection. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Upon baptism, you become one with Christ in every way—his death and his life. You receive all that He's one with—and hence you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He lives in you and shares God's life inside you! He COgenerates his life with you. He makes your life what it would be if Christ were totally free to live inside you and help you be the "you" he created you to be. You can say, "I've been set free to be the Christ in Me!" And this is glorious freedom:

**Acts 2:38** "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Not you *might*. But you *will!* To set you free. Free from having to be degenerated. Free from having to be just a human without God in you. Free from having to eternally die! Free to be everything Christ has made you to be! Living, alive, glowing, growing. What the uncreated God is. Free! **Free to be the Christ in me!**

### Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Cogeneration---sharing the life and ministry of the Generator of the universe. It's something Christ is dying (actually "died") to give to you! Why don't you make the right choice!

*Step into the Power!*

## Chapel 4 debrief

### 1. How does my life become one with Jesus?

- You become one with His death, and proclaim that by visually picturing that—stepping into a watery grave (baptism).
- Then you become one with His resurrected life, communicated to you by the Holy Spirit, who comes in to live inside of you
- Then you live his resurrected life by following the lead of the Holy Spirit who will forever live in you! Your old flesh might still try to lead, but you will learn more and more how to ignore the pulls of the old broken flesh and follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

### 2. What are ways you can become more aware of the Holy Spirit in your life?

- **Prayer** – talking with God in a personal way, daily. Remember, Jesus taught us to ask for "Daily Bread"—so that implies that your conversation will be "daily" with Him. And as you'll discover, you'll be able to talk to Him anywhere, any time several times a day. Don't know what to pray? Don't worry. The Holy Spirit promises to help you pray. Even to pray for you when you run out of words or can't think up any words (Romans 8:26-27). And as you grow, you'll learn how to perceive what the Spirit is praying, and begin praying those things too. It's like getting a window into the mind of God for your life.
- **Bible reading** – letting God talk back to you through the word of God. The Bible is "God-breathed"—a book *generated* by the inspired word of God. You can put God's word inside your brain, and with the Holy Spirit *generated* inside you, He can make known to you the will of God for your life. God will become personal, and you'll grow to know that you're never, ever alone.
- **Fellowship** – The *Generator* of the Universe not only Regenerates you and *COgenerates* his life in you—He makes you one with the *generations* you live with now. People you've never thought you'd be able to know become your friends, age groups and cultural barriers you've never been able to break get broken! The Holy Spirit breaks down the walls through the fellowship family we call church, and as we'll learn in the last chapel, you'll be able to minister God's living power in you with the *Generations*. The world—your world—will never be the same.

# generations:

*you're not alone!*



***generation** a: a body of living beings constituting a single step in the line of descent from an ancestor; b : a group of individuals living at the same time*

The purpose of this chapel message is to help the campers to see their place in the intergenerational life of the local church. It also provides the start of a discussion about spiritual mentoring that will, hopefully, lead to getting kids plugged into mentoring relationships back home. Note that there is no debrief session for this final chapel.

God makes it possible for us to be regenerated, to be "free to be the Christ in me!" But he also makes it possible for us to be part of a community of regeneration—free to be Christ in "we." The 'we' is the church—which God has created to include all kinds of different people, different ages, living together and becoming together what happens only when people share God's life and love together! The church is designed by God to be various generations all together. It's not just a place you go! It's something you become a part of! It's a body you let God place you in! And when you do, powerful things begin to happen, as the body of Christ works together in multiple Generations!

## Baptized into the Body

Do you know what the bible says happens to you at baptism? We saw a few of these things yesterday (let's review them).

- We are buried with Christ and become one with His death.
- We are raised with Christ and become one with His life.

But something else happens at baptism. Notice these Scriptures:

### 1 Corinthians 12

<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one **Spirit into one body**. . . <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

You are not just "dunked" in water, or even into just a "one-on-one" relationship with Christ.

You're also baptized **into the body** of Christ, which is His church. And you're led by God to become a specific part of the body, doing a specific kind of work, just like God has made the human body to have a lot of subunits and subsystems. Yes, you're part of the universal body of Christ (the whole body). But you're also supposed to grow to become a specific part of a specific part of the body. Just like God connects you back to Him, he connects you back to others.

Church is not just a place you go. Church is something you become, as you let God place you in his body as he sees fit. .

#### **1 Corinthians 12:18, 24**

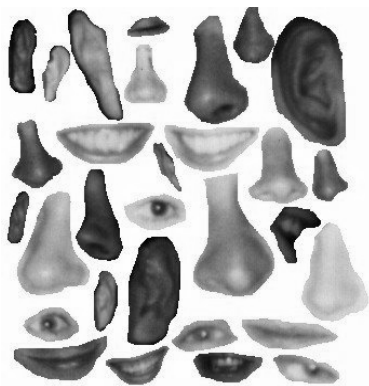
"God has combined the members of the body . . . *God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.* "

God himself "combines" or arranges you in the body. Being part of church, being part of the body is more than just finding a place that has music you like and friends you want to see or people you want to date and play games with. It's about becoming one with a body "God" has placed you in and to give your spiritual gift to. Together as a body, you (all of you) let Him do His work through not just a "me" but a "we." And God intentionally puts in the body folks from many different generations! For the good of everyone!

#### **1 Corinthians 12**

<sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

A lot of groups of Christians look like the following picture: Disconnected body parts that are alive, but not really "connected"—not really able to do a lot.





But when you let God arrange the body—and submit to the way he arranges and uses your gift, something incredible happens. God has "whole bodies" to work with. And his truth gets passed on to and **through** the Generations! God wants a multi-generation body! Not just an all teen church or an all young people worship event! He wants a well rounded body. And he wants it for a lot of great reasons. And here's a really big one:

### **Spiritual mentoring**

God wants each generation to share his mission together, and pass on its life of love and service to God to the next generation. One of the most beautiful examples of this in Scripture is the story of a young teenager called Timothy. He was a young Christian who lived in the first generation of the church after Jesus was resurrected. He lived in Asia Minor in a very "godless" pagan world—a world filled with idols, temples and sin. His mom and grandmother were believers. But his dad was not. But that didn't stop God from weaving him into a spiritual family. He became a vital part of God's body, doing ministry with, through and to, the *generations*. And he ended up getting a spiritual father, to boot. Look briefly at his story:

#### **Acts 16 Timothy Joins Paul and Silas**

<sup>1</sup>He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted to take him along on the journey . . .

And the apostle Paul took this young man and shared his ministry and life with him. They traveled together and learned from each other. Paul, I'm sure, learned some things about the Greek world from Timothy. Timothy, I'm sure, learned some things about God from Paul.

They became one with God and each other because they were letting God use them to share a life mission of doing the work of God together. They became more than just folks that went to the same church and sang a few songs together. They shared God's mission together. They became inseparable parts of a part of the body of Christ. They entered into relationship, like the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in relationship. Actually, they got to be so close, it was like they were "father and son."



1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, *my own son* in the faith . . .

2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, *my dearly beloved son* . . .

Notice the language here: My "dearly beloved" son. That's pretty close. Timothy wasn't "father-less." Paul wasn't "son-less". They shared a ministry—a mission from God. And they lived exciting and productive lives.

Timothy became not only close to Paul, but became able to do for the body of Christ a lot of what originally only Paul himself was able to do. Paul could send him places on his behalf, and eventually Paul would see his work continued through Timothy.

And Timothy didn't just do what Paul did. He had in many respects *become what Paul had become*: A co-minister with God. Paul was able to transfer **his life and relationship** with God to Timothy—to the next generation. And when Paul died, there was someone to continue the work Christ wanted to continue—into the next generation!! In fact, right before Paul died, he asked for his "son" Timothy to come to him. Paul was about to be killed by being beheaded for the cause of Christ. And look he writes for:

#### 2 Timothy 4

<sup>9</sup>Do your best to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup>for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. . .

Everybody else left me son. But you didn't. I'm about to die. "*Come to me quickly*" and when you do, "bring the parchments I left behind" the rest of the passage goes. Who knows what role Timothy played in helping Paul finish the letters and epistles that later became part of the Bible. What an honor! All because he was willing to be mentored he was able to be a co-minister with Paul to multiple generations, and become a part of spiritual history. Paul saw fulfilled in Timothy what another teenager in the Bible said he wanted to see fulfilled in his life

#### Psalm 71

<sup>17</sup> Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,  
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

<sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, O God,  
till I declare your power to **the next generation**,  
your might to all who are to come.

You, see it's more than just being part of a fun camp experience or just going to some fun church because it's like camp. It's about being part of Christ's body, about connecting in family like relationships that do God's work together through a "we" that has become a body. "Free to be Christ in ME!" And "Free to be Christ in WE!" In the process, you can receive a

"mentor." Someone to help you through the things you have to go through. Someone who can advise you, strengthen you and encourage you. Someone who can "hold you up" in the Lord. Someone who can help "hold you down" when you need it—as we all do from time to time.

## **Mentors in your life**

Do you know anyone in your life that could be your mentor? An older person whose life and ministry you could share now, and continue later? It might be your mom or dad! It might be an uncle, a cousin, a brother, a friend. It might be a person at your church, or even a pastor who not only already loves you, but whose ministry *needs you because you're a unique part of the body that he's not!*

### **1 Cor 12**

<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

God has not left you alone. There is someone out there! The Father—the great Generator of the Universe—is out there for you. The Holy Spirit, who makes you One with the Father and Son, and brings their life to your life, is out there for you and can be in you! And the *generationS* – the body God has put together for you to belong to as the body of Christ, in the church, is waiting at home for you! And the next generation is relying upon the works that you—connected with the full body—will do!

**Generations . . . a backwards look into your future....**

**Generations . . . now, pass it on!**

# Doing me, being me:

## *who am I?*

This class should follow as quickly as possible, chapel 2. It unpacks the concept that what you *do* says a lot about who you *are*. It is suggested that this class use a facilitated small group discussion format. Note as well the emphasis on connecting kids with spiritual mentors back home.

### LET'S PLAY "WHO AM I?"

In the privacy of your own heart and thoughts, let's answer some important questions. I encourage you to write your answers in your guide book.

- Who am I?
- What do I do?
  - Write down some of the good things you do...
  - Now write down some of the things you do that are not so good...
- What does what I do (good or bad) say about who I am?
- As you look at what you are, reflected in what you do, do you like what you see? Why?
- One last question: Why do I do what I do? Where does my behavior come from?

### My family tree

When it comes to who we are and what we do, we can learn a lot by examining our 'family tree' which describes where we have come from—the influences that people who are older than us have had in our lives. So let's construct our family tree (see the form in the guidebook). Fill in as many blanks as you can. Each person you'll put on this family tree may be understood by what they did—and that tells you a lot about who they were.

As you construct your family tree, don't only include physical relatives. Some of you may have "spiritual relatives"—a spiritual brother, sister, or older spiritual friend who is like a spiritual parent to you. It may be your actual Mom or Dad. Or it may be a grandpa, aunt, uncle, or older friend at church. There's a spot for you to include any of these folks.

What can you see about yourself (good or bad) that comes from taking a look at this family tree? Take a few moments to think about this—perhaps writing down your ideas. As you think, answer these questions:

- Of all the relatives you've listed, who would you most want to be like?
- Is there anybody in your family tree that you want to become like? Are they still living? Can you enter into a closer relationship with them?
- Who on this tree is someone who could serve as your mentor—your spiritual guide and coach? Perhaps there is that "spiritual father" who brought you to Christ. Or an older member in your congregation that you trust and look up to as a follower of Christ. Is anyone spiritually parenting or mentoring you? Is there anyone back home who could serve this role for you?

# Free to be Christ in me

Because each camp has its own camper demographic, this lesson should be contextualized to deal with the unique "life application" challenges of each camper group. Such contextualization will normally be handled by the camp chaplain, following the basic approach of this lesson which focuses on examining what being "freed" from sin looks like in a camper's everyday, 'real world' life. A word of caution here: be careful in this discussion not to imply that God's love for each camper is somehow conditional on the quality (good or bad) of their behavior. But we can seek to help them understand that, in Christ, they are granted the freedom to count themselves dead to sin and to live for and in Christ's righteousness. Indeed, the God they trust to save them by grace is the same God they can trust in to deliver them, through his grace, from slavery to sin.

Let's begin this class in Scripture:

## Colossians 3

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

In Christ we died—as our substitute he died on the cross to pay the penalty (which is death) for our sins. And in Christ we are come alive—we were resurrected to a new life—a life of freedom from sin's guilt and sin's bondage. In Christ, we are freed from sin.

But, of course, our old person, is still alive. Who he or she is, is who we are in Adam—it's the nature we inherited from our ancestors. But in Christ, the New Adam, we share a new life—a new nature—the life and nature of Jesus, and we are free to live in him rather than in Adam. God now grants us that choice—and the power to make it and to follow through. This does not mean that all of a sudden we are perfect. We continue to sin, to falter and even fall.

But with Christ's help through the Holy Spirit, he picks us up, we are forgiven and we are empowered to change—to become less like Adam and more like Jesus—over time; one step at a time. It's the work of the Holy Spirit to change us. And we are called upon to cooperate—to co-minister with the Spirit. To discipline our choices and our actions so that they are more in line with Christ and his way.

This is how it works: You'll still be tempted! Even Christ was tempted by the things that were around Him. But He never gave in to that temptation—temptation never turned to sin in his life. Of course, we are not Christ—we are not God-in-the-flesh. But we can know that in Christ we are forgiven and in Christ we are set free to have Christ living in and through us—we can share his resurrection life.

And so we can call upon his power to help us when temptation comes (and it will!)—with his help we can learn to say no to the temptation and to have the power to follow through. You can learn to say that even though I *want* to do this, even though I *feel* like doing this, I DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

How do you wage this war with Christ against sin in your life? First by understanding that the temptation is not the sin. Rather it is giving in to it that is sin. So how do you stop the process of temptation leading directly to sinful action or thought? By engaging in the two step process we just read about in Colossians 3:

1. Put to death—turn away from—separate yourself from—the things you know are wrong—the things the Bible teaches are wrong.
2. Set your mind on things above—or put another way: stay strongly connected to the things that are right—the things of God. Fill your mind with God's thoughts—embrace his heart.

How does this work? Let's go back to the analogy of how the power of electricity comes to you. Electric power plants make electrons flow by spinning copper wire near a magnet in a machine called a generator. The magnet makes the electrons in the wire move from atom to atom, creating electricity. Electricity has to travel a long way from the power plant to where it is used, and it can get weaker as it travels—so huge transformers at power plants are used to increase electricity's strength for its long journey. Electricity travels long distances over transmission lines on tall towers. When electricity gets closer to where it will be used, its strength must be decreased to just the right level to be sent, via service wires, into homes, schools, or businesses. These wires run inside the walls of buildings to lights and outlets, where electricity waits for us to use it.

Power gets to you and stays with you, as long as you stay connected to the power source. The same is true for us in our connection to God. God gives us ways to keep connected. And to stay strong. There are important ways to stay connected—Christians refer to these ways as “spiritual disciplines” or “spiritual habits”. Let’s look at the main ones:

1. **Prayer** – this involves talking to God, staying close to him in a personal relationship, sharing your life with Him. Nothing stirs up the Power of God's presence in you like prayer.

2. **Bible reading** – this involves reading and learning about the things of God that he reveals in Holy Scriptures. It teaches you things you can't come to know by yourself—God's will about all sorts of things in this life and the next. Mankind cut himself off from God's advice and experience and made really stupid decisions that resulted in the broken world we have today. You don't have to go there! God's words are living and sharp like a blade that cuts through confusion—it's like a laser beam that brings things into sharp focus. Reading God's word will help you stay connected to God's mind—to his will—to his direction for your life.

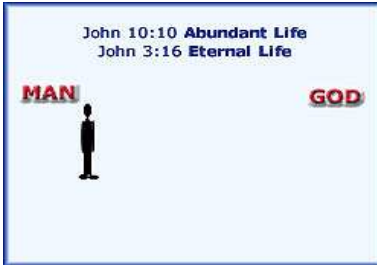
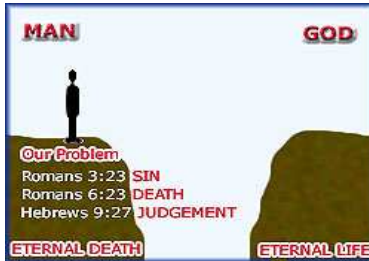
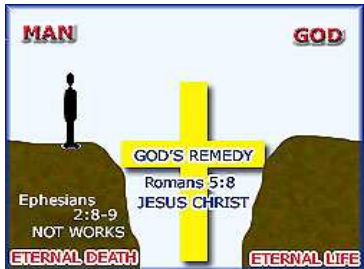
3. **Fellowship**. Electricity has to go through all kinds of steps and devices before it becomes available and useful within your home. It's like that for us—we have all sorts of spiritual "substations" in our lives—churches and other places where people gather to be one in Christ, to share Christ's truth, to worship Christ, to get connected to God. And your connection with God increases as you stay connected to other Christ-followers in what we call ‘fellowship’—close, intimate, God-centered relationships within the church. Fellowship is far deeper than just dropping in at church—or hopping from church to church because you like the worship or the pastor. True Christian fellowship that connects you deeply with God involves being deeply connected into the lives of other Christ-followers week-in and week-out—year-in and year-out, over a long period of time. God wants you to share in that type of community—let him place you there where you can serve Him by serving others according to His will for you in Him. And then stay connected. Stay put—don't be a church hopper.

4. **Mentoring** – God doesn't want you to do it alone. In addition to giving you the Holy Spirit personally, he's placed people in your life that can mentor you—coach you. He wants you to connect with older people who have lived a long time co-generating with Jesus, who were meant to pass on their life lessons and ministries to you. A mentor is someone who will hold you accountable to the vision Christ has for you, and will help bring you back when you get sidetracked. A mentor will share with you life lessons and will help you grow into the ministry work that Christ has for you to do in the body of Christ. And God desires that you grow to the point where you can mentor others.

Do you have a mentor now? Is there someone you are mentoring? We'll talk more about that in the final chapel. But now let's sum up what we've learned today. God doesn't want to just save you. HE WANTS TO LIVE THROUGH YOU. To co-generate good through you. To free you from having to be what you would be on your own apart from him. You are *SET FREE TO BE CHRIST IN YOU!*

# Appendix

## Gospel Presentation: *your regeneration*

- God's intent for us—an abundant and eternal life. 1
  
- Sin, death and judgment have separated us from God. 2
  
- But, Praise God! He has a plan for your regeneration. The Bridge is Jesus himself. He is the *only* way. 3
  
- Will you put your trust in Jesus—will you cross that bridge and accept your regeneration? 4