

March Madness!

In mid-February, six 9th graders and one 12th grader (all from either Massachusetts or New York) willingly gave up their February vacations to serve with us at Concord Christian Academy. The next week eight students and one teacher from Jesse Remington High School, along with a 10th grade student from Manchester Memorial High School, joined us in ministry at Dayspring Christian Academy in Attleboro, MA, during their February vacations. The willingness of these young men and women to sacrificially and enthusiastically give up their vacation weeks to mentor other young people is inspiring. The students at the schools relate to them and bond with them so well, and they make a huge impact. Last week we had a great time with grades K-8 at Faith Heritage School in Syracuse, NY, where former full-time team member Nate Blanchard joined us. Dan and Tyler Rhoda, a local camp director and his son, also joined us. Dan is a long-time friend of Nate and has come to FHS several times, while Tyler did his school work a week early so that he could come!



In chapel on the last day of spiritual emphasis week, we give the students the opportunity to share what God has been teaching them throughout the week. This makes Friday mornings very unpredictable – there might be a lot of awkward silence, or a lot of sharing from the head but not the heart, or it might be very powerful. Our Friday morning at Dayspring was one of the “very powerful” mornings, as students prayed for each other, reconciled with each other, etc. It was a time of significant personal breakthrough for some of them, and it also brought great unity. The sixth graders blogged about the week and about Friday morning – here are some of their thoughts.

“Spiritual Emphasis Week was a life changing experience for me. I learned that I can trust God through everything. It doesn’t matter what I’m going through, He is always with me. I LOVED the last day when I felt the Holy Spirit move through all of us. This week will always be in my memories and I will treasure what happened forever. When my grandfather died, I was devastated and felt helpless. The worst thing was that I never got to say goodbye. Now, I realize that he’s in a much better place and I’ll see him soon. I usually am not someone who would share in front of other people, but the Holy Spirit was moving through me and I felt led to share. This week was the first time I have ever felt so emotional and overwhelmed by God. Overall, this week was the greatest experience of my life.”

“On Friday, we had an ‘open mic’ day. Just about everyone shared. Then, we prayed over people. By saying this, I speak for myself and many others: I felt the Holy Spirit. That was the first time that our class prayed over each other. I feel that our class will be changed from now on. I thank God for the Coastlands team for letting them come.”

“I loved what we did on Friday. It was Spiritual Healing for all of us.”

“SEW helped me, this year, to find my path in the Lord.”

“I think that S.E.W was the most inspirational time of my life! It taught me to have hope even in the darkest hour. On Friday that was the most emotional time in my life. I don’t think I can cry like that in the next 15 yrs.”

“Through this week my bond with Christ has grown ENORMOUSLY. I really liked how at the end of Spiritual Emphasis Week we were all able to get together, give a speech, and bond and pray with everyone after that. This made the WHOLE 6th Grade grow closer together.”

“I liked that if you had questions that may be personal or anything, the Coastlands were glad to answer, or help. They were there with open arms to help us. I just think that the Coastlands were very comforting and definitely made an impact on my life.”



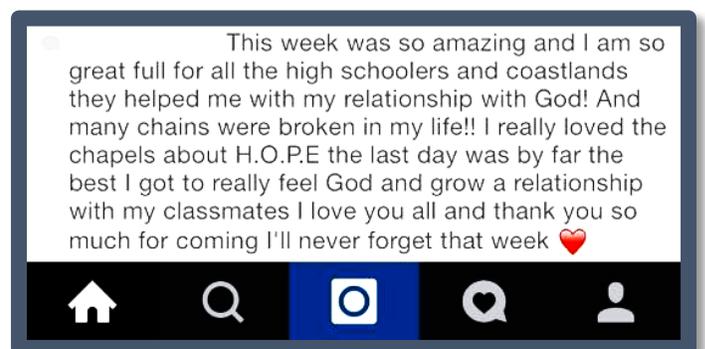
The Jesse Remington Team



A teacher, students, and team members praying for each other



Lukas and 6th grade guys praying for each other



An 8th Grader’s Instagram Post