

8/2/2025 and 8/3/25

Practices and Conversations: a resource to help you engage in a regular rhythm of spiritual practices and a tool to encourage conversation with God and others as you encounter Jesus, become like Jesus, and love like Jesus.

Part 1: Practice

Spiritual practices help us create space to open ourselves to God. In this week's practice, think of one member of the next generation that you can bless and encourage this week. Can you call out a god given strength or spiritual gift that you see in them? Can you offer encouragement or bless them in a tangible way? Our next generation will be the ones who pass along our faith. How can you pour into them this week?

Part 2: Conversations between you and God

Spend some time this week with God considering the following questions:

1. In what ways is it challenging for you to be real with God?
2. In what ways is it challenging to be real with yourself?
3. In what ways is it challenging to be real with others?

Part 3: Conversations with others

1. In the day one VBS recap, we talked about the story of Zaccheus. His relationship with Jesus changed who he was. After he was honest with Jesus and accepted Jesus' love, he was changed. When you look back over your life, how has Jesus changed you?
2. In the day two recap we were asked the question, what is in your backpack. This was an invitation to consider the lies in our hearts and minds that might lead us away from Jesus and cause us to forget our true identity as a dearly loved child of God. What is one lie that you need to be real to yourself about so that it doesn't lead you astray?
3. In the day three recap, we talked about telling the importance of truth to others. Frank talked about how lying is a tactic of the enemy and one way he cause division among people and damages our relationship to God. Is there a time where sharing the truth in love brought unity and peace in your life?

Part 4: Scripture to Meditate on this Week

Proverbs 12:19, Luke 19:1-10, Luke 22:54-62, Ephesians 4:22-24, Acts 5:1-11