

FUSE



VOL. 1 / SEPTEMBER 2015

LIFE IN DEATH VALLEY

**BEN
BOULWARE**
SHARES WHY
HE'S BOUT
THAT LIFE



**HOW TO KNOW
WHAT TO DO
NEXT**

WESLEY



CONTENTS

Growing
People
Change

4

YOU
CAN'T DO LIFE
ALONE

12

SAVED
PEOPLE
SERVE
PEOPLE

20

FOUND
PEOPLE
FIND
PEOPLE

26

YOU
CAN'T OUTGIVE
GOD

32



Growing People Change

People change.

It's hard to avoid it when every day you could be meeting new people, seeing new things, and making decisions. No matter who or where you are, your environment and the choices you make within that environment are going to slowly grow and shape who you are.

If it's hard for you to see the change in your own life, all you need to do is read an old journal entry or Facebook post. Some of that stuff can get pretty embarrassing. But you'll realize that you've gotten smarter, taller...maybe even better looking?

Look at the Bible and you'll see more examples—radical examples—of how lives can change (for better or for worse). Here are just a few:

David: When he first shows up on the scene in 1 Samuel 16, he's a shepherd boy—the lowest of the low in society. But God chooses him as the anointed king of Israel.

Peter: When he was first called to be Jesus' disciple, his name was “Simon” (which meant “grass-like” in Hebrew...in other words, weak). He was loud-mouthed, impulsive, and at one point even denied knowing Jesus. Jesus later gave him the name “Peter” (meaning “concrete” or “stone” in Hebrew), and he went on to be a major part of the early Church.

Paul: In Acts 7 we first hear about a man named “Saul,” famous for murdering Christians. But after the Lord appears to him in Acts 9, his name is changed to “Paul,” and eventually changes the world through the Gospel.

When you meet Jesus, you're never the same. Not only that, but following Jesus means growing closer to Him. Because He loves us, He asks us to surrender everything we have in exchange for a life better than we could've ever imagined. It's a life full of change, and it's not always easy. But it's always worth it.



TIME HOP

GUESS THE FUSE CAMPUS PASTOR

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____



FINDING FREEDOM

BY DARIEN RENCHER



GROWING UP, I WAS NEVER AGAINST CHURCH—I JUST COULDN'T FIND ONE THAT I LIKED.

I remember my grandma used to drag me to church when I was little and I had to wear the little clip-on tie because I didn't know how to tie a tie.

Fast-forward to my 8th grade year, and my friend invited me to Fuse. I actually thought it was pretty cool. An older guy named Alex Street took me in and all I remember was Alex serving me so much, paying for my meals, taking me places, and living life with me. A lot of the time we would just be running errands, but I thought it was the coolest thing ever.

Before I went to Fuse, my life was all about girls and sports. I looked up to the jock guys. I saw how they got all the girls and I wanted to become just like them—and eventually I did. In middle school I made MVP on all my teams, and I was a lot more “experienced” than my friends when it came to sexual stuff. To me, women were just tools to be used. It sounds terrible, but that was what I thought.

After that, I started making better decisions. That summer I got into a Fuse group with some other guys at NewSpring and Riley Cummings was our group leader. I started reading the Bible and spending time with God every day. That's the first time I started taking next steps since I had made the decision to give my life to Jesus. I started experiencing the joy that comes from knowing Him.

As I was going into the 10th grade, I felt the Lord tell me not to date for a year after hearing Perry talk about it at the Gauntlet, so that's what I did. Riley also went through my phone and deleted hundreds of girl's numbers because I knew I couldn't do

it myself—I felt like those girl's numbers were my prized possession.

Since meeting Jesus, He's shown me my identity is in Him, rather than in what the world can offer me. He's taught me to value women, to see them as His daughters instead of just tools to be used. He's replaced the urge to go and live like I used to with things way more fulfilling. Now when I hang out with my friends it's stuff I can actually laugh about, rather than regret later on.

It's been the best year of my life. Jesus has shown me His character and who He really is without any distractions. He had to take a lot of stuff away to show me more of who He is.

I'm not really afraid anymore, I feel like I could change the world, or something... legit. All because of the power He gives me to be a conqueror. And there is so much more in store. It's an adventure.





YOU
CAN'T DO LIFE
ALONE



SHARE ALL YOUR
FUSE GROUP PICS WITH
@NEWSPRINGFUSE
ON INSTAGRAM



THE STORY OF
**LIFE IN
DEATH
VALLEY**

BEN BOULWARE





WHEN FOOTBALL FANS

hear the name *Ben Boulware* they think of a strong and powerful line-backer with a must-win attitude. However, that go-getter mindset is not only something Ben carries on the football field, but also in his day-to-day life.

Ben began coming to NewSpring at a very young age and was able to grow up at Fuse. Starting in middle school, Ben built a strong

community with some of his close friends and his fuse group leader, Logan Kinley. Like any middle school boy, they loved goofing off, playing games, and going through the pantry in each other's houses. They built friendships founded on fun, which included attending fuse on a weekly basis.

In high school, Ben was recruited by Clemson University where he chose to attend and play football. As a freshman at Clemson Ben struggled with things he did not see coming. Living less than 30 minutes from his hometown he did not anticipate the lack of community he would experience. Growing up at NewSpring, Ben had godly community, but he quickly learned in his college transition, that was something he was going to need to fight for.

He did not let distance become an excuse for losing community. Ben took initiative to grow a relationship he had with his pastor and friend, Riley. Ben now looks to him as a mentor and someone to keep him accountable. "My main mentor now is Riley, he texts me every day making sure I'm reading, mak-

COMMUNITY IS STAYING DISCIPLINED IN ACCOUNTABILITY. IF YOU EVER STRAY OFF OR BECOME UNDISCIPLINED YOUR COMMUNITY IS THERE TO GET YOU BACK ON TRACK IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

ing sure I'm doing good in school and with ball." Ben is now able to take the wisdom he learned from fuse, his group, and his mentor, and show others the love of Jesus on and off the football field.

Some of you may bleed orange and others of you don't even know where the end zone is, but Ben has a story that can connect with us all. The fight to find something that draws you close to the Lord—friendships that push you to do the right thing instead of pulling you away. We've all heard "the first step away from God is away from the people of God." But news

flash...it's not just a saying. Community is essential to your walk with the Lord and staying on the right track. Ben tells us, "Find that group of friends that is going to keep you accountable, find some older person in your life who is wiser than you and can help you out and lead you down the right direction in high school and middle school." You don't have to do this thing alone.

The background image shows a football player from behind, running on a field. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay. In the bottom right corner, there are hand-drawn white symbols, including 'X' marks and circles, with arrows pointing towards the center of the image.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS THING ALONE.

WWW.NEWSPRINGFUSE.COM/GROUPS



**SAVED
PEOPLE
SERVE
PEOPLE**

EDDIE CRAIN

**FUSE STUDENT, KIDSPRING VOLUNTEER
& FUSE GROUP LEADER**

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE
PART ABOUT SERVING?**

Seeing other people fall in love with Jesus. When a student understands the Gospel that makes my day!

**WHAT IMPACT HAS SERV-
ING MADE IN YOUR LIFE?**

I leave church with more joy than I came to church with. Serving the Body of Christ is the most im-

portant thing. Seeing the church grow stronger together.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGH-
LIGHT OF SERVING?**

I got to pray for a student named Gracie at Fuse, and her two younger sisters got to come to Kidspring for the first time ever that next Sunday. The sisters both met Jesus the following Sunday!

MARLEE FERGUSON

**FUSE STUDENT & KIDSPRING VOLUNTEER
SINCE 2011**

**WHAT IMPACT HAS SERV-
ING MADE IN YOUR LIFE?**

Understanding how important our walk with Jesus is and that it is not about me. Seeing that I can have an impact on others. I started serving because I thought it would be fun. I stayed because of the people there.

**WHAT KEEPS YOU
SERVING?**

The people that I serve with. Family time before and after the service motivates me the most!



BETHANY POUNDERS

**FUSE GRADUATE, NEWSRING COLLEGE STUDENT
& FUSE GROUP LEADER**

WHY DID YOU START SERVING?

I had read so much about how Jesus served and poured out into the disciples in the Bible—they didn't keep it in. They turned around and poured out into other people and impacted others lives by serving them. I believe that we are called to do the same thing. When the Lord pours into us it's not just about what He wants to teach us, but it's about what the Lord wants to teach other people through us.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGH-LIGHT OF SERVING?

Over the past five years I have seen so much change and growth in my Fuse Group girls' lives. Four of the girls in my group have gotten saved, six girls have gotten baptized, one has rededicated her life to Christ, and four girls have started serving at Fuse and now lead their own Fuse Group of middle schoolers. All the glory goes to the Lord, and all the joy goes to me because I just get to watch it all happen.

JEFF CALDWELL

**FUSE STUDENT, KIDSPRING VOLUNTEER
& FUSE GROUP LEADER**

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT SERVING?

Hanging out with students. Building relationships and seeing them take their next steps.

WHAT IMPACT HAS SERVING MADE IN YOUR LIFE?

It has taught me to think of others first.

WHAT KEEPS YOU SERVING?

The relationships with volunteers and students within Fuse.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGH-LIGHT OF SERVING?

Being a part of their life change each week, but especially the opportunity to be a part of The Gauntlet.

JACK MARTIN

**FUSE STUDENT & KIDSPRING VOLUNTEER
SINCE 2011**

WHY DID YOU START SERVING?

I wanted to participate in the ministry I grew up in and be a part of that community.

WHAT IMPACT HAS SERVING MADE IN YOUR LIFE?

I wouldn't be where I am without serving. Especially with the community I have found myself surrounded with. It's so evident

that God has blessed me so much by giving part of my life away by serving.

WHAT KEEPS YOU SERVING?

It's all about the people. I'll never to get to the point where I'm "all served out" and there is nothing else that I can do. I get so much joy from serving.

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

A GUIDE TO KNOWING WHAT TO DO NEXT

IS YOUR HEART BEATING?

YES

NO

OK SERIOUSLY GET THAT CHECKED OUT

DO YOU HAVE A
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

YES

SINCE MEETING
JESUS HAVE YOU
BEEN BAPTIZED?

NO

YES

GET BAPTIZED

MEET JESUS

NETFLIX?

FRIENDS

GOSSIP GIRL

LOST

JOIN A
FUSE GROUP

TALK TO
SOMEBODY

READ YOUR
BIBLE

NEXT STEPS

MEET JESUS

Your next step is your first step. A relationship with Jesus is key. Jesus is the whole point. Without this relationship, there really isn't a reason to take next steps and grow.

Next steps = listening to Jesus and doing what He says. Jesus is the only One who can truly change our lives in a way that matters.

If you've made the decision to follow Jesus, or if you still have questions, we'd love to talk with you about it. Stop by a NewSpring campus this Sunday, or call us at 864.965.9990

JOIN A FUSE GROUP

True friends are what Fuse Groups are all about. We all need people in our lives that help us follow Jesus and tell us the truth when we need to hear it. Plus you can go get ice cream with people instead of by yourself—pretty cool, kind of like ice cream. Ice. Cream.

Sign up for a Fuse Group at newspringfuse.com/groups

TALK TO SOMEBODY

Nobody has it all figured out; even Waldorfs need to open up from time to time. A secret can only hurt you while it's still a secret. Confession breaks the power of sin in our lives. There is no sin too big for Jesus, and life is too hard to not share what's going on. Go to somebody you trust (Fuse Group leader, BFF, Rufus Humphrey) and get it off your chest.

If you'd like to talk to somebody or receive prayer visit www.newspring.cc/care

GET BAPTIZED

Baptism is the next step after meeting Jesus, and it's simply going public about your faith in Jesus. Getting baptized shows others that you've decided to follow Jesus, and allows them to celebrate the decision with you. Maybe even with ice cream.

Sign up for baptism at www.newspring.cc/baptism

READ YOUR BIBLE

Open your Bible to John 4 8 15 16 23 42.

Jokes. But seriously, open your Bible and read something. And then keep going. Tbh John is a good place to start. If you're feeling a little lost (wink) the Bible will help point you to your next step.

For resources and tools to help you get started, visit www.newspring.cc/bible



**FOUND
PEOPLE
FIND
PEOPLE**

I MET CHARLIE METCALFE FOR THE FIRST TIME

BY LAUREN OQUIST

when I interviewed him. At sixteen, he's confident and friendly—he smiled and made eye contact as we shook hands.

Sitting down at NewSpring, I asked him to tell me about himself.

He started going to Fuse in 2010, when he was in 7th grade. “The summer going into my 8th grade year, I went to The Gauntlet and met



FOUND PEOPLE FIND PEOPLE ISN'T JUST A CATCHY PHRASE, IT'S A LIFESTYLE.

Jesus,” he said, “that’s when everything changed for me. I realized I wanted to go into full time ministry.”

“What brought you to Gauntlet?” I asked.

“One of my best friends, Will Sweeney, brought me,” he said,

“and Drew Hankins, now the Spartanburg Fuse Director. He was my small group leader at the time, and he was my leader at Gauntlet, and he was the one who ended up leading me to Jesus.”

I started asking him about the friends he’s brought to Fuse, and he pulled out the Notes app on his iPhone and started scrolling. Not sure what he was doing at first, I leaned over and realized he had written out stories of the guys he’s brought to Fuse. There were so many, he wasn’t sure where to start.

“All I want for people is to have

what I have, which is freedom. When I invite someone to Fuse, they ask what it is and I tell them it can’t be explained. It has to be experienced.”

The first friend Charlie brought to Fuse that met Jesus was Kody. They met the summer before their freshman year and played baseball together. Charlie invited him to spend the night at his house before a tournament that weekend. So, on Wednesday night, Kody went to Fuse with Charlie and met Jesus.

“At the time I really didn’t know what I was doing by bringing people to Fuse for the first time,” Charlie confessed, “I didn’t realize what I was introducing them to. Honestly, I was going just for the free food. But this made me realize that it wasn’t just free food that was drawing me to Fuse. It was what God was doing in my heart and in the people around me.”

Charlie is the kind of guy who can make friends with anybody. He says he gets it from his mom, “She’s the most loving person I know.” So when it comes to life at Daniel High School, where he’s

about to be a junior, he meets all sorts of people.

He became friends with two brothers—Joseph and Jonah. They were from the country of Jordan and came from a Muslim family, “They just seemed like really awesome guys,” Charlie said, “I saw a lot of potential in them, and I asked them to come to Fuse. They were hesitant at first, because they were Muslim and they didn’t know what their family would think. The first night Joseph, the older brother, got saved. From that, he started following Jesus, got his first Bible, and converted from Islam to Christianity, which is a huge deal for them.” The next week at Fuse, Jonah met Jesus as well.

Next Charlie told me about Malik, “He actually lived with me, my mom, and my brother for six months.”

One night Malik began opening up to Charlie, telling him about some difficult family situations that were going on, “I told him the best way to face the rest of life is with Jesus—He only promises abundance. So, right there in my bedroom, on a Thursday night, I

got to lead my best friend to Jesus. It was the best moment of my life.”

As Charlie went through several more stories with me (too many to fit in one article) I couldn’t help but ask him what motivated him to keep inviting his friends. In a world where so many of us are scared to step out and tell our friends about Jesus, Charlie can’t seem to help himself.

He told me, “Ultimately, the big game changer for me is diving into the Word daily. Even if it’s not my best day, I’ve got to read the Bible. I’ve got to know more about Jesus.”

When I asked Charlie what advice he would give to someone who struggled with inviting people, he humbly shrugged his shoulders and said, “I just don’t give up on people. People want relationship. Relationships are what changed my life. I saw authenticity, care—people actually wanting to be a part of my life. That’s what matters.”

11

Ways

TO

INVITE

1

GIVE THEM PIZZA.

2

**SERIOUSLY GIVE THEM PIZZA...
IT'S SO GOOD.**

3

**DRESS UP IN A GORILLA COSTUME, DRIVE TO THEIR
HOUSE, POLITELY INVITE THEM...WHAT? IT'S A GOOD IDEA!**

4

**ACTUALLY BE THEIR FRIEND. BE MORE INTERESTED
IN THEM AS A PERSON THAN IN THEIR CHURCH
ATTENDANCE.**

5

**ASK THEM HOW MANY RETWEETS IT WILL TAKE
FOR THEM TO GO. DON'T WORRY,
@NEWSPRINGFUSE HAS YOUR BACK.**

6

**EVERYBODY LOVES PROMPOSALS.
EVERYBODY LOVES FUSEPOSALS EVEN MORE.**

7

**SHOOT THEM A REMINDER TEXT EVERY TIME FUSEDAY
ROLLS AROUND.**

8

**OFFER TO GIVE THEM A RIDE TO FUSE AND THEN GO PICK
THEM UP!**

9

**GIVE THEM A PUPPY AND NAME IT "I LOVE FUSE."
EVENTUALLY THEY WILL FIGURE IT OUT.**

10

**PLAN AN AFTER PARTY (MOVIES, SLEEPOVER, CFA, COD
ALL-NIGHTER), BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST: FUSE.**

11

NO ONE CAN SAY NO TO PIZZA.

YOU
CAN'T OUTGIVE
GOD

PRAYER CHANGED THE GAME

BY KELSEY MITCHUM

THIS STORY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS STARTS LAST APRIL

when my sweet friend and D-group leader, Ashley Evans, asked me if I wanted to go to Israel. I thought about it for two seconds before I pushed the idea away because I knew I couldn't pay for it.

"Okay," Ashley said, "just pray about it." So I did.

Praying changed the game. Praying took the focus off of what I could do and put it on how much more God is able to do. I began to pray that

if He wanted me to go, He would let me know. Honestly, I didn't know what I was getting myself into by praying that.

Jesus kept leading me back to Matthew 28:6, when the angel tells the women at the empty tomb, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." It hit me: Jesus was inviting me to come and see. I had delayed long enough, so I finally decided to say yes to Jesus' invitation to come and see. I was going to go to Israel. I just had no clue how this would happen. To be quite

honest, it looked impossible, but I trusted that Jesus would make a way.

Thirty minutes later after I said yes to Israel, I met Haley Sanders. If you don't know Haley, all you need to know is that this girl is a baller (no, she doesn't play basketball).

A few minutes after meeting she asked, "Aren't you going to Israel?" I knew Jesus was already at work.

We began to talk in the following week and a half. I got to know her

story and she got to know mine. Then, after only two weeks of knowing each other, she taught me in the most jaw-dropping way that you can't outgive God.

She paid for my Israel trip. In full.

Nothing is impossible for God. Money isn't an issue for Him. He can most definitely do anything with anybody. He is in the business of paying everything for people who simply can't pay. His resources are unlimited, and His love for us is unmatched. If you don't think God wants to bless you, think again.



GET RICH *OR* *Die Trying*

10 WAYS TO BE GENEROUS WITHOUT A DOLLAR

Time

Your time is extremely valuable—you can't get it back once you've spent it. Show someone that they are valuable by spending your time with them.

Love

Everyone wants to feel loved, but in reality not everyone does. That's why being generous and showing love to others outside of your comfort zone is a game changer. Make a difference with your love!

Talent

Everyone has a talent, special skill, or an ability. Instead of keeping that talent to yourself, think of creative ways to serve others with it.

Giveaway

Remember the time you were in need of something and someone provided it for you? How did you feel after? Create that same feeling for someone else through meeting their needs.

Wisdom

We've all been in a tough situation and needed advice. Chances are that there is someone going through something you have already been through and could use your advice. Share your wisdom!

Energy

You're young and you have tons of energy! Babysit for your neighbors or mow their yard! Find a way to use your energy to serve!

Words

Your words carry more weight than you think. Be generous with your words through engaging people you wouldn't normally talk to. Something as simple as "Hey, how are you?" could brighten someone's day.

Attention

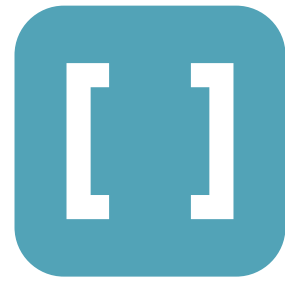
Not only can you be generous with your time, but with your attention as well. A lot of people just want to be heard, and you spending time actually listening could change a life. Many things want to steal your attention, so choose wisely where to invest it!

Squad

Simple. Invite someone to be a part of your squad. Whether that means moving over a seat to create room for someone at your lunch table, or inviting someone to spend time with your friends over the weekend.

Gospel

Share the Gospel with others. Think about what Jesus has done for you. Let that excite you to want that for everyone else. You sharing your testimony will change lives!



**DOWNLOAD THE
FUSE APP**

**AVAILABLE ON IOS
AND ANDROID**





WWW.NEWSRINGFUSE.COM