

GET

WE DO TOUGH STUFF



GRIT

1. abrasive particles or granules, as of sand or other small, coarse impurities found in the air, food, water, etc.
2. a coarse-grained siliceous rock, usually with sharp, angular grains.
3. a firmness of mind or spirit. unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger

RISK

We have traveled a long way together to arrive at workcamp. Let's start by checking in with each other. Some of you have been to workcamp before, but for others, this is a new experience.

How are you feeling now that you met your crew, been assigned your role, and we are about to begin our work together?

What's the biggest risk you've ever taken?

Why was that risk challenging for you? What happened?

Some people are natural risk-takers, while other people like to "play it safe." Jesus invited Peter to take a risk.

Push Out into Deep Water Luke 5:1-11

Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God. He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their

nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch."

Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets." It was no sooner said than done—a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity. They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself." When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him. It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon.

Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him.

What gets your attention about Peter in this story?

Even though Peter and his fishermen

friends have worked all night, Jesus tells them, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Jesus and Peter have just met; why do you think Peter does what Jesus tells him to do?

The catch of fish is overwhelming, yet Peter reacts to it with a curious statement: "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness."

Why does Peter react so strongly? Why does he ask Jesus to leave him? Why does Peter talk about being sinful?

Jesus quickly redirects Peter's thinking by saying, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women." When they return to shore, Peter and his friends leave everything and follow Jesus.

What does Peter risk by following Jesus? Why not just keep doing what he's always done? What are you willing to risk with Jesus this week?

Closing Prayer

Thanks, God, for a safe trip to camp, and for the opportunity to serve others this week. Thank you for the opportunities we'll all have to grow our GRIT this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Announcements

FEAR BECOMES COURAGE



Group Check-In

How are you all feeling after your first day at workcamp?

Tonight we heard and experienced Peter as he walked on the water with Jesus, then sank. We listened to Jesus for a word or phrase about getting out of the boat and taking the “next step” toward him.

We got serious about service today. We all spent a day with a crew of strangers and worked on the home of a stranger. When we left the morning program and headed toward our worksite, it was like leaving a sunlit path and plunging into a clouded wilderness. There was a lot we didn’t know, and a lot to learn.

How was your first day experience?

In one sentence, describe your worksite and resident.

What was the most challenging part of the day for you? Favorite part?

Walking on the Water Matthew 14:22-36

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves.

At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. “A ghost!” they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. “Courage, it’s me. Don’t be afraid.” Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Master, if it’s really you, call me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come ahead.”

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, “Master, save me!” Jesus didn’t hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, “Faint-hearted, what got into you?” The two of them climbed into the boat,

and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, “This is it! You are God’s Son for sure!”

On return, they beached the boat at Gennesaret. When the people got wind that he was back, they sent out word through the neighborhood and rounded up all the sick, who asked for permission to touch the edge of his coat. And whoever touched him was healed.

Describe a fear you faced this past year. How did you respond to it? When it comes to facing fear, how would you describe yourself? (i.e. cautious, impulsive, apprehensive, bold) What do you like, and not like, about Peter’s approach to facing fear? Why?

How is Jesus inviting you to “get out of the boat” this week? Explain.

How have you seen Jesus growing your GRIT already at camp?

Remember that Jesus is always with you. He’s inviting you to get out of the boat and walk with him. It will take courage to risk trusting Jesus in your journey into the unknown this week. It’s a lot like walking on water! Peter grows in his spiritual GRIT because he trusts Jesus and gets out of the boat. And even when Peter sinks in the waves, the experience of trusting Jesus in a radical way grows his courage. Jesus is inviting you to join him, too.

Announcements

FORGIVENESS



Group Check-In

Tonight's program talked about score-keeping and forgiveness.

When we keep a record of how people hurt us, how does that impact our life?

Sometimes forgiving someone else is a difficult thing to do, but it's most often the one thing that can stop a tough situation's negative ripples from continuing to impact us. The knee-jerk reaction is to lash out at the person who caused the hurt. Or we adopt a polite façade while we're secretly seething with anger. These responses can quickly pull us into resentment and anger.

How do you react when someone has hurt you?

Can you share a story when you have been hurt and how forgiveness played a role in your story? What made forgiveness possible?

Romans 12:14-19

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Paul wrote these words to a community of Jesus followers living in Rome.

These Christians were taking big risks to follow Jesus. These teachings on forgiveness seem counterintuitive. But Paul is offering us something different: a way of love and healing from hurt.

When you "bless" someone who hurts you, what changes for you? What changes for the other person? Have you ever hurt someone (even by mistake) and they've "blessed you" in response? What happened?

Practicing forgiveness is super challenging. But we can start to encourage each other in our group when it comes to forgiveness. It starts with how we interact with each other.

Prayer For Forgiveness

Jesus, you've done so much to show your love for us, going as far as possible to bring us personal forgiveness and new life. It's amazing how you forgive! Please teach us how to forgive, and give us the GRIT to practice forgiveness. Hear us as we pray for forgiveness in our life...

For a sin that burdens us and keeps us from being the person you created us to be, Lord, we ask you to give us freedom. (Pause.)

For a time when we've hurt someone, no matter what it was, we ask for forgiveness and for that person's healing. (Pause.)

For a time in our past when we did something wrong—something we can't quite let go of—we ask you, Jesus, to give us the grace to forgive ourselves. (Pause.)

For a person we're struggling to forgive, Jesus, please give us the grace to release that person and the pain. (Pause.) Amen.

Announcements



TRUST

Group Check-In

What, if anything, has happened at camp that has been better than you expected?

What, if anything, has happened at camp that hasn't quite met your expectations?

During tonight's program, we talked about what it means to trust Jesus, even when it's costly. Trust can be a tough gift to give another person; it's difficult

to know what they might do with your trust. Will they prove worthy of your trust, or will they betray it? That's what makes this quote from Ernest Hemingway a little challenging. In a letter to a friend, he wrote, "The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them."

What does Hemingway mean?

Is this good advice? Why or why not?

Trust is something you can give to more than just an individual; you also can grow to trust a community, such as our youth group. Think about that.

What makes a youth group trustworthy?

How does trust grow in a youth group, and how does it break down?

What can we do together that will raise the level of trust we have in each other?

How does your personal trust in Jesus support the growth of trust in our youth group?

What sorts of things does Jesus do to help us build our trust?

For some of us, trust starts by deciding to trust. For all of us, trust grows when the person or group consistently demonstrates they can be trusted. That's something we all can participate in together!

Closing Prayer

Announcements

TUESDAY

June 26, 2018

WEDNESDAY

June 27, 2018

SURRENDER



Surrender is true GRIT. It celebrates God's love for us, and it helps us to live in loving relationships with others. But we have to be careful: surrender does not mean giving up your own identity. It also doesn't mean surrendering what is right. Surrender is a giving up of control, it is allowing for differences of opinion, but it doesn't mean allowing yourself to be hurt or abused. Surrender is honest, but it doesn't back down in love. It stands firm and rooted in love. It gives strength. *Can you share a time when you have found strength in surrender?*

Closing Prayer

Loving God, give us the strength to surrender and let go of my own need to control. Fill us with your spirit which guides us into love and strengthens us to be honest when we need to speak truth, which heals us when we are hurt or abused by another person, which loves us when we feel isolated or alone, and which empowers us to forgive others when we have been hurt. Jesus, give us the true GRIT it takes to love with courage. We pray we can be real with one another, to be vulnerable, to grow together, in your love. Amen.

Group Check-In

The program tonight encouraged us to think about what it means to surrender to Jesus. Let's talk about that. *What stuck out to you in tonight's program?*

Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, "[Jesus] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for

whenever I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

What does it mean to surrender? What do you think Paul means? Is there strength in surrender, or letting go?

Sometimes, we have false allusions that power, being rigid, or uncompromising is what holds power. This kind of power isn't really strength; it is controlling whether it be by manipulation or fear. True power comes when we are willing to let go of our power to empower

someone else. By letting go, by being open to new ideas, by allowing yourself and another person freedom, it gives a creative power. This is surrender. Surrender is being your true self and encouraging others to be who they are, with their thoughts, feeling, ideas, and experiences. It is celebrating the gifts of others as we all are children of God.

So far during your experiences this week, what's one thing you've had to surrender? What have you learned about the impact of surrender in your life?



June 28, 2018

THURSDAY



Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.

-Maya Angelou

LOVE

It's our last night together here in Virginia Beach. Let's share some highlights from today and from the whole week.

When or where have you experienced God this week?

Tonight we'll slow down and pay attention to one of the resurrection stories of Peter and Jesus. After Peter had denied knowing and following Jesus before he died, Jesus appears to Peter to teach him about his path into spiritual GRIT.

Do You Love Me? John 21:15-19

After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

He then asked a second time, "Simon,

son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep."

Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me."

What does this passage mean to you about following Jesus?

After Peter denied, betrayed, and walked away from his friend, Jesus showed up on the beach and loved him. Jesus offered his love and peace to his friends. Jesus then tells Peter

that loving him means feeding and shepherding others. Jesus loves us and reminds us to live in that love by loving others

What have you learned here at camp that can help us all grow spiritual GRIT together?

In what ways can we live out these truths when we return home?

The best part of this week is that we've spent time with Jesus. You can tell when someone has been with Jesus because he leaves a mark. You've listened to Jesus, pursued him, wrestled with him, and embraced him. And you've developed spiritual GRIT each step of the way.

Before our final prayer together at camp, let's go around and share how you've seen someone in our group model spiritual GRIT this week. I'll start. When I've shared about someone, then it's that person's turn to share about someone else. We'll keep it going that way, making sure everyone gets mentioned.

Closing Prayer Circle

Announcement

FAITH WORKCAMPS

WWW.FAITHWORKCAMPS.COM

Stay Connected!

Check out our video blogs and photos at faithworkcamps.com and tweet us @faithworkcamps. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you both online and after we return!

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Despite a stable economy and vibrant tourist season, many people (including many veterans), live at or below the poverty level, and those who do struggle to maintain homes and re-claim a sense of dignity and comfort. We hope to make lasting difference here in the lives of the residents and the community at large.

