

We missed you at the October Youth Ministry gathering!! John shares Jesus' teachings for the importance of having Faith....miracles happen.

Read the designated verses in John Chapters 4-6 and answer the questions on this worksheet. Keep the booklet in your folder so you will have it for review preparing for the Rooted in the Gospel/Scripture Challenge at the end of the year.

In order to receive make-up credit for this session, return the worksheet to your faith group leader or you can drop it off in the Youth Ministry box in the front entryway.

ACTIONS (service hours) begin accumulating in 7th grade toward Confirmation. November volunteers are needed to help with Advent Adventure (November 20) and Community Action Thanksgiving baskets (November 21). If you can help, please contact me at 868-3334 or send me an email to sabrinae@centurytel.net.

Together in Christ,
Sabrina

Name _____

The Gospel of John Chapters 4-6

John 4:46-54 (Page 2)

Do you have unwavering Faith?

Scripture is filled with many miracles. In your lifetime, what miracles have you experienced?

How about family members or friends?

Movies or books?

John 5:1-9 (Page 3)

You are a Letter from God

Have you ever wanted to write a letter to God? If you sat down right now to compose a message to the Creator of the universe, what would you say?

I think most would go with the whole series of "why?" questions...why me God? Why did my parents divorce? Why am I depressed a lot? Why did you make me this way? Why are things turning out like this?

Valid questions to be sure - and also ones that God is not threatened or angered by. Life is some-

times plain and simply awful, and it is human nature to point our finger at the sky and blame the One in charge - right?

That is certainly something Tyler Doherty could have done, and no one would have blamed him.

Who is Tyler Doherty? Well that's not his real name, but he is a real 8 year old boy who went from an easy going, soccer playing childhood to the darkest journey anyone could ever face when one simple word entered his world:

Cancer

In the process of his battle with this deadly disease, Tyler had to quit his beloved sport, lose his hair and eyebrows, and face a daily battle with a reality that could crush the spirit of anyone on the planet.

But Tyler had an unshakeable relationship with God...a childlike faith that turned his pain and discouragement into a community transformation. That's why the letters he writes to God are not about the "why," or even about him. Tyler writes to God about other people and their problems, and in turn becomes a living letter from God to everyone around him.

And now his story has the chance to transform - not hundreds - but literally millions of lives through the movie Letters to God.

I can't say if I would have the faith that Tyler had when facing a giant of that size, but one thing I have in common with him is that I, too, am a living letter from God to the people around me.

And if you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, this statement is true about you:

Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).

This truth formed the foundation of Tyler's outlook on life. He wrote pen and ink letters to God on behalf of others, and in turn God used him to be a beating heart letter from Jesus Christ. His deepest wish was that the sad, hurting, and broken people in his world would come to know God.

We've been granted an unbelievable opportunity - haven't we? Every day God is texting the world through our eyes, our words, our attitudes, and our actions. The ink from our hearts bleeds onto the paper of our world, painting a picture of Jesus Christ.

So what kind of living letter are you? The answer to this question can be found in another question:

What kind of letters are you writing to God?

Your prayers are your letters, so if they are generally composed of complaints, questions, and self-focused requests, then that is the kind of God the people around you will see.

How about we all start a new letter writing campaign? One that asks God to touch lives and heal the pain in our corner of the world. One that begs God for the salvation of our friends who don't know Him because they haven't trusted in Jesus Christ as their only hope of salvation.

Let me start this campaign with a letter from God that changed me to the core of my being:

He was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.
All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God's paths to follow our own.
Yet the Lord laid on him
the sins of us all (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Remember, the ink that God is using to write His message to the world through you was paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. Don't waste this precious gift with selfish and self-centered prayers and living, rather make each day a magnificent composition to your Savior, then watch Him write His message of unconditional love and salvation to everyone around you!

Ask your friends what they would put in a letter to God. Would they ask questions? Would they question His goodness? Or would they be more like Tyler and praise God for the life they've been given? Pray for an opportunity to talk about the Biblical description of Christians as "living letters" from God, telling the world about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:15-17).

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing (Philippians 2:14-16).

Source: Dare2Share.org (Used by Permission)

What do you think?

John 6:41-71

Every time you receive Communion, you receive a spiritual strength that no one or thing can ever give you. Do you consciously receive the Eucharist as *Jesus* or just a piece of bread?

What might happen if you started truly believing as the apostles and the disciples two thousand years ago or followers of Jesus today?

Could it change your life?

Sacraments

Do you receiving your First Communion?

What do you remember most about that day?

What was it like the first time you experienced the presence of God in the Eucharist?

Do you remember being excited about going to church so you could receive again, like all the other people in church?

Do you still have that same excitement?

Why or why not?

Morality

Why do you think bullying and abuse toward oneself is happening in your generation? Is it violent video games, music, television, the internet...?

What can YOU do to change these violent actions against oneself and others?

Liturgy

Do you know which cycle we're in this year? *Google it and find out...*

ACTIONS

Which ACTIONS do you plan to volunteer for in October or November?