

# Life with Sons and Daughters:

Reflections on youth camp 2025

6.29.25.

## Scripture. Sons and Daughters, prophecy.

Joel 2:28–29 (NLT)

*The LORD's Promise of His Spirit*

<sup>28</sup> “Then, after doing all those things,  
I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will dream dreams,  
and your young men will see visions.

<sup>29</sup> In those days I will pour out my Spirit  
even on servants—men and women alike.

Acts 2:14–41 (CSB)

### PETER'S SERMON

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, “Fellow Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only nine in the morning. <sup>16</sup>On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> **And it will be** in the last days, says God,  
that **I will pour out my Spirit on all people;**  
**then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,**  
**your young men will see visions,**

**and your old men will dream dreams.**

**<sup>18</sup> I will even pour out my Spirit**

**on my servants in those days, both men and women**

and they will prophesy.

**<sup>19</sup> I will display wonders in the heaven** above

**and signs on the earth** below:

**blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.**

**<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness**

**and the moon to blood**

**before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes.**

**<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls**

**on the name of the Lord will be saved.'**

A. I'm firmly convinced that Scripture is true.

1. And as I worshipped with over 600 students this week, I was constantly reminded of this Scripture:

2. Both Joel 2 and Acts 2 declare: Your sons and daughters will prophesy, and visions and dreams will be the possession of both the young and old.

3. No one is left out in the vision of Pentecost.

B. This morning, I want to share a few observations from youth camp.

1. This is very different from my typical expository preaching.

2. However, I believe it is beneficial for us to hear about what God did through your giving and prayer.

3. It's good for us to get to know the students better.

a. so we can pray for them more specifically, and to

- b. Encourage us to realize that the hype about how terrible this generation is is the same lie your parents or grandparents heard about your generation.
- c. Remember, your parents probably thought your music was too loud, your hair too long, your work ethic not significant, and your hobbies were dumb.
- d. And you turned out just fine.
- e. This morning, I want to weave together a few of the stories and insights this week brought.

## 1. Relay races and glasses in the lake.

A. Every year, there is an amazing race where 600 students participate in some form or another.

1. All over the campground, in the pool, and on the lake, students engage in various activities for the sake of the team.
2. For example, Albert volunteered to complete the food portion.
3. His task: Once Jeffrey could get from the gym to the cafeteria, which is probably ½ mile (guess), Albert's job was to drink a smoothie as fast as he could.
4. The smoothie was that morning's breakfast with some orange juice added.
5. The drink went down fast, and came up just as quickly.

B. This sent Jeffrey back to the gym, and Isaac ran the baton down to the lake where I was stationed with Jack and Lucas.

1. Jack's job, along with boys from other teams, was to go down a large water slide, into the lake, pick up a rubber chicken, swim it back, and tag Isaac to run back up the hill with the baton for the next portion.
2. As we were waiting, we have no idea how long the first couple of tasks would take.

3. So, Jack is ready to go except for his aviator sunglasses.
4. The other boys on the team warned him to take them off.
5. Nah, I'll wait until my teammate shows up and I'll have time then.

C. Then all of a sudden, Isaac is running hard downhill. He's the second or third runner to get there, and all of a sudden, the adrenaline pops.

1. Their hands tag, Jack jumps onto the long slide.
2. But Jack launch himself forward as much as he dived headfirst and down.
3. So his momentum left him, and he got stuck halfway.
4. Jack stands up, runs to the end, and bails off.
5. He's super quick in the water, grabs the chicken, throws the chicken to Isaac who sprints off to the next part.
6. As Jack comes back up to where I'm observing for safety reasons, he says, "Those glasses aren't coming back. They are at the bottom of the lake.
7. It's ok, he brought multiple pairs to match his outfits.

D. Sometimes you think you'll have time to take something off and save them, but you get caught up in the moment.

1. When we are caught by surprise, we make mistakes.
2. When we aren't ready, simple things like taking off sunglasses result in losses.

E. We often think we have plenty of time, or we will do it later, but sometimes those moments catch us by surprise.

1. Lost sunglasses make for funny stories.
2. Lost lives make for tragic stories.

3. I can tell you that as fast as Isaac Rinne is, the arrival of Jesus will be even more sudden.

a. Malachi spoke of God suddenly returning to His temple.

b. Joel spoke of the outpouring of the Spirit as a sign of the Last Days.

4 We can't take minutes and moments for granted.

a. We better not delay taking care of business, because it might be too late.

b. What is at stake is more than losing sunglasses or physical things.

c. What is at stake are eternities, livelihoods, and relationships.

d. We must be careful to not lose what really matters.

Speaking of not losing stuff.

## 2. Where is your water bottle?

A. Camp, from a leader's perspective, is a constant asking of, "Who does this belong to?"

1. I'm not sure about the girls, but after the first night, we are constantly asking, "Whose underwear or socks are these?" and holding them up high for someone to claim.

2. At the end of the week, anything that isn't claimed is thrown away.

3. I'm sure many students today, all across Southern Missouri, are being asked by their mothers:

'Where are your socks?'

Where is your Bible?

Where is your towel?

Whose underwear is this?

Notice this picture of lost and found:

**B. All of these items were brought with a purpose and left by accident.**

1. Rare is the student that comes to camp thinking, "I'm going to leave my water bottle and Bible behind.
2. The result is separate from their intention.
3. But the result is the same: a lot of items left behind.

**C. Some items are meant to be left behind:**

1. We should leave as much of our past behind as possible.
2. We should leave our worries in the hands of Jesus instead of picking them back up.
3. We should also leave behind legacies and altars: examples and places of times when we met Jesus in a real way.

**D. There are many reasons why camp is special.**

1. No phones for parts of 5-days.
2. An environment focused on students meeting Jesus: louder music, more lights, wacky games, and lots of sweating.
3. But camp, after something like 80 years, is special.
4. Thousands have met Jesus there. Thousands have been called into ministry.
5. It was where Julie was baptized in the Holy Spirit as a teenager, on stage, while she and I led worship as students at kid's camp.
6. This week, I got to be on that same spot, sharing about calling and missions. (PICTURE)

**E. Some places are holy because of what has happened there.**

1. Altars were designed to point people to an example of Divine Intervention.
2. An Altar is a reminder of where God met me, where God changed me, where God changed futures, destinies, and eternities.

3. Parents and grandparents: Have you erected any altars for your lineage to visit?

4. Students, are you building altars where your present and future family can visit and ask, "What happened to you here?"

5. When the Spirit fell on the 120 in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost, an ordinary room became a holy place.

6. It is my prayer that rooms in your houses become holy.

7. That trees in your yard become places where you meet with God.

8. Where country roads lead not only to springs or creeks, but to the flowing waters of the Holy Spirit.

F. Students, don't leave Jesus at camp.

1. Adults, don't leave Jesus sitting at church waiting for you to return.

2. Don't come with purpose, and leave by accident.

3. Take Jesus with you.

### 3. Tied together is not Unity.

A. One of the games involved 3 girls or 3 boys tying their shoe laces to each other.

1. This meant that three students were tied together facing each other and not alongside.

2. This is how the girls looked doing it. [Video of girls in the shoe race.](#)

3. This is how the boys looked. [Video](#)

B. Connection is not unity.

1. You can be connected to others and not be in unity.

2. You can be connected to Jesus and still be out of sync with what God is doing and where God is leading.

3. Part of maturity is moving past the question of “will this action send me to hell?” to “Am I in alignment with what God has saved and chosen me for?”

C. What does this look like?

1. On one of the first nights, the speaker invited students to sit with the Lord to ask Him to speak to them.

2. In our group time afterward, one student said it like this: I feel like the Lord is asking me to give Him my mornings.

3. Other students echoed similar things.

4. This is not a desire to earn salvation.

a. This is a question: Does my partnership with the Spirit look like the boys in the race or the girls?

b. The boys were connected, but ugly.

c. The girls were connected and worked in unity.

5. As we grow in Christ, we should be asking God “what do you desire of me?”

a. It might become a morning person, and give God your mornings.

b. It might mean that when you wake at night, you pray instead of scrolling.

c. The possibilities are endless.

d. But for all of us, the goal is to be connected and unified to Jesus and each other.

4. My life is so loud, my hearing is so terrible, I can't hear the Lord: Albert Gyory

A. On the way back, the students riding with me were allowed to ask any question.



1. We talked about Bible and leadership.
2. Marriage came up for a few minutes, but the guys made that weird.
3. At one point, Jeffrey and Jay were debating the role and purpose of Buccees.
  - a. Jeffrey is from Ohio where there are Buccees everywhere, he said.
  - b. Jay, who lived in Texas, yelled, "You Yankees won't understand."
  - c. Then he says, "It's been a long time since I was in a Buccees bathroom. They are so clean you can drink from the urinals, I think."
  - d. And then, I kid you not, a Buccees sign appeared on Highway 54 as a sign that God approved.

B. In the midst of all that, Albert said, "My life is so loud, my hearing is so terrible, I can't hear the Lord

1. There is a desire to hear from God.
  - a. Sometimes it is to hear from God for direction. What to do, what to say, how to help my friends, or who to marry.
  - b. At least, there is a desire.
  - c. God is giving us and the next generations a desire to hear His voice.
2. There is also a recognition of the problem.
  - a. This is also good news.
  - b. When we know we have a problem and can articulate the problem, we are in a place where Divine action can help.
  - c. If you can't see the issue, or don't want to confess the issue, you are not likely to see God intervene.

d. But when we confess, say the same thing about our life that God is saying, that opens the doors for God to teach us, correct us, cleanse, and purify us.

C. Life is loud, even if the noise is turned off.

1. This generation is connected and confused.
2. This isn't only a youth problem, but a human problem.
3. What if we all started praying for each other, by name?
  - a. I know you may not know their names:
  - b. So ask.
    1. Ask every week if you need to.
    2. Write it down on a card or save a note on your phone.
    3. Pray that they may hear the voice of God clearly.

D. The greatest fruit takes place in the fields we bless.

1. If you ignore a field, it will never produce its potential.
2. If you ignore a generation, it will never fulfill its divine potential.
3. If you curse a generation, it will reap what you have sown.
  - a. Thank you for investing in students.
  - b. Thank you for sending them to camp.
  - c. Thank you for giving me and the staff the opportunity to go with them.
  - d. And I ask you to pray for them, by name, on a regular basis.

## 5. The power of “reverse” mentoring/discipling.

A. Joel and Peter declared that the Sons and Daughters will prophecy.

1. They will, with inspired and Spirit-filled speech, declare to the nations what before had been the prerogative of adults and men.

2. They will declare the word of the Lord both up and down the chain of command so to speak.

3. In the leadership world, we talk about reverse mentoring, where younger or junior employees teach older or senior leadership.

4. In reverse discipleship, the younger help disciple their parents, their grandparents, the upper-classmen, and older siblings.

B. I've challenged them to do this very thing.

1. It is my prayer that their generation teaches and models to my generation a passion for Jesus that we don't have.

2. It is my prayer that these students will be used to lead their parents and grandparents to Jesus.

3. That by their hands, their families are healed.

4. That through their prayers, the previous generations will be Baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.

C. Would you pray with me that we will be sensitive to the Spirit, so as not to hinder what God wants to do in the next generation?

1. We must remember that we are the vessels not the source.

2. The Lord is the source, and He has appointed men and women, young and old, slave and free to be conduits of His love and power.

3. Who are we to say God can't use the kids and teens to lead their world to Jesus?

## 6. Same God, different Move

A. Many Christians who have followed Jesus for a while want God to move in the next generation in the same way He moved in ours.

1. No two revivals have ever sounded the same.

2. We must be careful not to dictate how the next revival must look, feel, and sound.

3. Yes, it might be louder than you like.

4. Each night they worshipped with loud songs, and jumping around, and bright lights.
5. But on the last night of camp, all 600 students walked to an area called the Pointe on the edge of the lake.
6. Here is a glimpse of what 600 students, a few instruments, and the Holy Spirit sound like.

Short video clip of worship:

B. Same God, different move.

1. I'm so happy that the vision of Pentecost doesn't exclude anyone because of age, gender, or economic status.
2. There is room for all of us in the Upper Room.
3. There is a move of God available for the oldest to the youngest and everyone in between.

C. Pursue Jesus.

1. Don't stop growing.
2. Don't stop praising.
3. Don't stop fighting.
4. Don't stop seeking, asking, and knocking.

## 7. Embrace the Process, Complete the Work

Pictures: Albert, John Gyory, and Jack Roberts Pictures in 2018 Pictures of their last camp in 2025.

A. For almost fifteen years, I've had the chance to pastor these boys.

1. I took them to their first church camps.
2. And I took them to their last church camp as students.
3. Thank you, Al and Cecilia, for staying committed all of these years.

B. Church, we still have work to do.

1. We have generations to raise.
2. We have altars to build.
3. We have resources and legacies to steward and pass on.
4. We have a divinely ordained task to complete.
5. We have a region to reach.

C. Whatever stage of life you are in, don't give up.

1. Students, don't quit because you are home from camp.
2. Adults, don't quit because you're retired and "done your part."
3. Families, don't quit because there are altars to be built.
4. God's promise still stands, "In the Last Days, says the Lord, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Sons and Daughters will prophecy." That includes you, me, and everyone in the room.

Prayer