

Going Public

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Table of contents

Title page	1
Table of contents	2
Roster	2
Camp information	3
Schedule	4
Map of grounds	4
Wilderness Survival	5-6
Faith expression explanation	7
Session 1	7
One-on-one 1	8-9
Session 2	12
One-on-one 2	13
Session 3	14-15
One-on-one 3	16
Session 4	17-19
One-on-one 4	20
Session 5	21-22
One-on-one 5	23
Sunday Morning Worship and Share Time	24-27
Follow up discussion guide	28-31
Post retreat survey	33

Roster

Student	Faith Friend	Student	Faith Friend
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Schedule

Saturday

8:30 – Participants arrive, settle into camp

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and introduction

9:30-10:00 Wilderness Survival game, ice breakers.

10:00-11:00 - **Session 1**

11:00-12:30 - **Session 2**

12:30 – Lunch

after lunch – 2:00 – Free time – Recreation

2:00 – 3:45 – **Session 3**

3:45 – 5:30 – **Session 4**

5:30 - 6:00 – Free time – Recreation

6:00 - Dinner

7:00-8:00 – **Session 5**

8:00-11:00 – Faith Expression discussion and composition + Free time

Bonfire and s'mores

11:00 – Lights out

Sunday

8:00 - Breakfast

8:30 – 10:30 - Worship service with Faith Expression sharing. (Bring Bibles, booklets, and Faith Expression notes)

11:00 – depart

Wilderness Survival!

You and your companions have just survived the crash of a small plane. Both the pilot and co-pilot were killed in the crash. It is mid-January, and you are in Northern Canada. The daily temperature is 25 below zero, and the night time temperature is 40 below zero. There is snow on the ground, and the countryside is wooded with several creeks criss-crossing the area. The nearest town is 20 miles away. You are all dressed in city clothes appropriate for a business meeting. Your group of survivors managed to salvage the following items:

- A ball of steel wool
- A small ax
- A loaded .45-caliber pistol
- Can of Crisco shortening
- Newspapers (one per person)
- Cigarette lighter (without fluid)
- Extra shirt and pants for each survivor
- 20 x 20 ft. piece of heavy-duty canvas
- A sectional air map made of plastic
- One quart of 100-proof whiskey
- A compass
- Family-size chocolate bars (one per person)

Your task is to list the above 12 items in order of importance for your survival. Consider the uses for each.

First rank the items on your own.

Next, you will join groups and discuss the rankings of the times together. You **MUST** come to agreement as a group and indicate your group rankings.

When you've completed the rankings we'll review an expert's rankings and score your groups survival prowess!

Wilderness Survival – Scoring Sheet

Name	Expert's RANKING	YOUR RANKING	ERROR POINTS	GROUP RANKING	ERROR POINTS
A ball of steel wool					
A small ax					
A loaded .45-caliber pistol					
Can of Crisco shortening					
Newspapers (one per person)					
Cigarette lighter (without fluid)					
Extra shirt and pants for each survivor					
20' x 20' piece of heavy-duty canvas					
A sectional air map made of plastic					
One quart of 100-proof whiskey					
A compass					
Family-size chocolate bars (one per person)					
		TOTAL ERROR POINTS -->		TOTAL ERROR POINTS -->	

Experts' ranking will be provided at the completion of the exercise. Error points are the absolute difference between your ranking and the survival experts' ranking (disregard plus or minus signs).

Session 1

Faith expression explanation

Write your story:

Tell how God has brought you to this point in life, a place where you want to profess your faith in him. Include in your story things like:

- **Significant people who have influenced you.** Describe the influence of your parents, friends, teachers, pastors, or others in shaping your faith.
- **Important events that have made an impact on your life.** Moments that were full of joy or perhaps colored by pain.
- **Special moments that have increased your understanding of God or your trust in God**
- **Your experiences of God in your devotional life.** Has there been a time when you felt answered prayer? Is there a special teaching, scripture, or book that made an impact on you personally? Is there a text that seemed to be speaking to you? How has the church been a factor in your life?
- **Ways in which you express your faith.** In what ways do you express your faith? How do you share with others? How do you put your faith into action?

Remember, your Faith Expression doesn't have to be perfect, but it should be honest, thoughtful, and meaningful to you. Aim to explain yourself to others so they understand a little about you and your love for the Lord.

Painting pictures

The Bible has many images of God. Almost every page tells something about God. But even the Bible isn't big enough to hold a complete view of God. We won't know the whole truth until we meet God in heaven! In the meantime, since we're not exactly in heaven yet, use these passages to see a few of the Bible's many names and descriptions of God. Illustrate the image on your canvas.

Psalm 19:1	Isaiah 43:15	Isaiah 66:13
Deuteronomy 32:4	Isaiah 64:8	Deuteronomy 32:11
Psalm 23:1	Proverbs 18:10	Matthew 3:13-17

Sharing paintings

One-on-one 1

Get Acquainted

If you had two choices, which of these would you rather do? Circle your choice, then compare with your partner. Are you more alike or different?

- A. read a good book OR go for a run
- B. get together with friends OR watch a video at home
- C. have a hamburger and fries OR have a veggie stir fry with rice
- D. play video games OR play a sport
- E. sing OR paint
- F. go camping OR stay at a fancy hotel

My favorite...

Music:

Book:

Movie:

Game:

Color:

If could be any animal I wanted to be, I would be a _____ because...

Your Story

Timeline

On the timeline below add dates and write in significant events in your life.

Birth

Today

|-----|

How was your life different before and after each event?

Holy Habits

“Holy habits” help Christian's grow. Prayer and Bible reading are two very important holy habits. Read each of the Bible passage below and answer the question (or just write down your own thoughts)

Pick two of the following passages to read and discuss.

Read Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature. In what ways would you like to grow?

Read 1 Timothy 4:8-12

How does your church show (or not show) that it values your faith?

Read Psalm 119:97-105

How can God's Word help keep you on the right path?

Read Colossians 3:12-17

How can God's people help keep you on the right path?

Read 1 Corinthians 13

How does love keep you on the right path?

Prayer patterns

For your prayer time this session, try using a style called ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and

Supplication. Many Christians find that praying this way helps them focus.

- Adoration (I worship you, Lord, for...)
- Confession (I'm sorry, Lord, for...)
- Thanksgiving (Thank you, Lord, for...)
- Supplication (I ask you, Lord, for...)

In the “supplication” part of your prayer, please pray for each other and pray that God will bless your time together. Believe that God will honor your request and use your relationship to prepare you for professing your faith

Session 2

Experiencing God

If you were a Musician...

What instruments would you feature in a song that describes God?

- Soft-drumming guitar solo
- wild drumming and percussion
- rousing trumpet fanfare
- deep rumbling pipe organ
- loud, attention-getting heavy metal rock
- a whole orchestra playing in perfect harmony
- other: _____

If you were an Artist...

what colors would you feature in a picture that expresses what God means to you?

- Bright reds, yellows, and blues
- soft pastel colors
- stark black and white
- all the colors I could think of
- all the shades of my favorite color
- earth tones of green, brown, and gold
- brilliant gold
- other: _____

What shapes would you use in your picture of God?

- Lots of circles
- flame shapes
- triangles, squares, rectangles
- irregular shapes, wavy lines
- many straight lines
- other: _____

When or where have you recently felt close to God?

- With my family
- in church
- alone in my room
- while on a service project

- while reading the Bible or praying
- while enjoying nature
- other: _____

When have you experienced moments of awe?

A Look at the Creeds

A creed is a statement of what a person believes. The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” The creeds below are Christians' best attempts to summarize what the Bible teaches.

Ecumenical Creeds

Some creeds are ecumenical (Ek – you – men – ih – kul) which means universal or world-wide. Christians of all traditions, protestants and Catholics, share these creeds.

- *Apostles Creed* – This creed is called the Apostles' Creed not because it was produced by the apostles themselves but because it contains a brief summary of their teachings.
- *Nicene Creed* – The Nicene Creed emphasizes what Christians believe about the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It was accepted by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.
- *Athanasian Creed* – This creed is named after Athanasius (293-373 A.D.) because he defended the truth against the attacks on the doctrine of the Trinity. It is the longest and most detailed of the ecumenical creeds.

Reformed Creeds

The Reformed creeds summarize what Reformed Christians believe the Bible teaches on various points of doctrine.

- *Belgic Confession* – The Belgic Confession was written in 1561 by Guido de Bres, a pastor in Belgium who was killed for what he believed. This creed was written primarily as a response to the persecution from the Roman Catholic church.
- *Heidelberg Catechism* – The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 by two German men in their mid-20's. It was originally written to teach new Christians in Germany. It is a very warm-hearted and personal statement of our faith.
- *Canons of Dort* – They explain the meaning of five important teachings of Reformed churches – total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints.

	<p>I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.</p> <p>I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.</p>
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	<p>He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.</p> <p>I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.</p> <p>*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places © 1987, CRC Publications, Grand Rapids MI. www.crcna.org. Reprinted with permission.</p>
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Attributes of God

Lessons from creation

Lessons from Scripture

One-on-one 2

Your story

Take a look back at your timeline from last session. How did your major life events impact your spiritual life?

What other events or situations made a difference in your faith life? How did they impact you?

Holy Habits

Pick two of the following passages to read and discuss.

Read Zephaniah 3:14-17

Have you ever thought of God rejoicing over you with singing? How does that make you feel?

Read Jeremiah 18:1-6

Has God had to remold and reshape you at times? Describe such a time.

Read Psalm 61:1-5

When have you had to run to God for safety? Write a thank-you note to God for his protection.

Read Psalm 103:8-14

Think about some of the sins God has forgiven you for. Say a prayer of thanks to God for his grace and love.

Read Revelation 21:1-5

One day you will live with God! What are your feelings as you think about this?

Prayer Patterns

For this session try what is known as “intercessory prayer.” An intercessor is someone who pleads on behalf of someone else. So intercessory prayer is prayer in which you regularly pray for the needs of another person.

Often, before you practice intercessory prayer, God prepares your heart. You notice that someone has needs, and you have a strong urge to pray for those needs. It might be a family member who's ill, a friend at school who doesn't know

Jesus, someone whose parents are getting a divorce, a kid who's thinking about joining your youth group, the homeless who roam your downtown streets, war refugees in another land...the possibilities are endless.

Choose one or two people for whom you would like to become an intercessor. Pray every day for that person. Be specific, asking God to change the situation. Reflect on what God might want you to do. Perhaps you will want to enlist the help of a prayer partner who will remind you about your commitment.

Take a moment now to intercede for someone in prayer.

Session 3

My ideas about Jesus

Imagine that you are a well-known and gifted artist. You have been asked to paint a portrait of Jesus that captures for all Christians everywhere who the "real" Jesus is. What would you draw? Choose your own idea or select one of the following.

- An infant Jesus in his mother's arms.
- An angry Jesus driving the moneychangers from the temple
- A laughing Jesus with little kids sitting on his lap
- A compassionate Jesus healing the sick
- A powerful Jesus calming the storm on the sea.
- A dying Jesus nailed to the cross
- A victorious Jesus bursting out of the tomb
- A triumphant Jesus ascending into heaven
- A contemporary Jesus talking with a couple of kids at my school
- My own idea: _____

The Bible's picture of Jesus as savior of the world.

Each Bible verse here is a piece of the big picture. Read and follow the instructions starting with number 1 at the bottom of the page.

4. Who can bridge the gap
between us and God?
John 3:16
John 14:6
Draw a bridge between you and God
Write "Jesus" on the bridge

YOU

3. What does sin do?
Makes God seem _____ (Psalm 22:1)
Makes us feel _____ (Psalm 51:3-5)
Sin _____ us from God.
Draw a vertical barrier or gap between you and God.
Write the word "sin" on the barrier.

GOD

1. What's wrong with people?

When God made people, God said that they were very

_____ (Genesis 1:31)

But Adam and Eve _____ (Genesis 3)

Now sin infects _____ (Romans 3:23)

Draw a picture of yourself under the word "you."

2. What does God ask of us?

Love _____ and _____ (Matthew 22:37-39)

Be _____ (Leviticus 19:2)

Can we do this?

Draw a symbol to represent God under the word "God."

My Response to God's gift of salvation

Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you trust that Jesus' death and resurrection are for you?
- Do accept God's gift of forgiveness?
- Is there any sin you may have done that's too big for God to forgive?
- Do you believe that God has made Jesus Lord of the whole world? What difference does that make in the way you live?
- How do you react to this good news? Use the space below to express your feelings and thoughts about Jesus' gift of salvation

One-on-one 3

Your Story

Who are some of the most important people in your life?

What people in your life have made an impact on you spiritually? What have they taught you about God? How did they teach you?

Parents are often very important people in our faith journey. With the card you've been given, write a note to your parents expressing what they have meant to your faith.

Holy Habits

This session's readings are things that Jesus said about himself. **Pick two** of the following passages to read and discuss.

Read John 6:25-35

Why do you think Jesus called himself "The bread of life"? What does this title tell you about Jesus?

Read John 8:12

Light banishes darkness and makes things clear. In what part of your life does Jesus' light need to shine?

Read John 10:11-15

How does knowing that Jesus is your "good shepherd" make you feel?

Read John 14:5-11

What does it mean to you that Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life"?

Read John 15:1-8

Jesus says we are branches that bear fruit as long as we are attached to him (the Vine). What are you doing to stay attached to Jesus?

Prayer Patterns

Here's a combination written and spoken prayer that you may find helpful. At the beginning of the week, write (on small slips of paper) your personal concerns, prayers requests, and names of persons you want to intercede for. Every day draw out two or three slips of paper and pray for these concerns. Add more slips of paper to your stash as you go. On the back of the slips of paper, write down answers as they happen. Be sure to thank God for any requests that were granted.

What are some things you could add to your slips of paper?

Session 4

What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

When did the Holy Spirit's work begin?

What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives?

1. Opens our _____ so we can _____ to God.
2. Transforms our lives:
 - a) _____ us of what is not right in our lives.
 - b) Helps us understand _____ and the _____ of God.
 - c) Molds and shapes our _____.
 - d) Gives us the _____ to live the life Jesus offers.
3. Equips and empowers us to _____ a _____ in this world.

The Holy Spirit and Me

Spiritual Gifts

You may wonder what you can do to help the work of God. God has given each of his children special gifts to do their work. Those are spiritual gifts. Find out what yours are, and work with the Holy Spirit to do the work.

- Administration (organizing and helping people work together)
- leading (setting an example for others; helping them reach their goals)
- prophesying (knowing God's Word and talking boldly about it)
- creative communications (music, art, writing, drama, dance, and so on)
- hospitality (making people feel comfortable, relaxed)
- teaching (clearly explaining things about God and how God wants us to live)
- discernment (telling if something is right or wrong, real or fake)
- faith (trusting God's promises, even in hard times)
- giving (cheerfully and generously sharing our time, money, and possessions)
- intercession (praying for faithfully for others)
- mercy (sympathy for those who are hurt; helping them in meaningful ways)
- encouragement (using words/actions to cheer people up)
- evangelism (telling others about Jesus' love)
- service (helping others in practical ways)
- knowledge (understanding God's Word and how it relates to our lives)

Which of these gifts – or other gifts – do you think God may have given you? Ask your parents and other Christians who know you well if they agree with you.

Think about some ways you could use the gift or gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to serve God.

I could....

I could....

I could....

Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

When the Holy Spirit lives in you, your life will be marked by the fruit of the Spirit. Pick three of the nine qualities and tell how you could show these qualities in your life this month.

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE ♥ joy
peace PATIENCE
KINDNESS
goodness FAITH
gentleness FULL
& self-control NESS
GALATIANS 5:22-23

One-on-one 4

Your Story

Using Your Gifts

You named some of your spiritual gifts, in what ways are you most eager to use your gifts?
What gifts would you like to develop more fully?

How can you partner with other Christians (the Church) to utilize your gifts even more effectively?

Do you think profession of faith will be a launching point for you to use your gifts in new ways or in expanded ways? Why or why not?

Holy Habits

Pick two of the following passages to read and discuss.

Read Acts 2:1-4, 36-41

How do you react to this story?

Read Acts 2:42-47

What is it about this picture that sounds good to you?

Read Acts 7:54-8:3

How was the Holy Spirit present here?

Read Acts 11:19-30

List all the ways you see the Holy Spirit working in these verses.

Read Acts 16:6-15

List all the ways you see the Holy Spirit working in these verses.

Prayer Patterns

Another technique you may want to try is using a journal for prayer. Writing down your prayers is one way to keep your attention focused on God.

Use a notebook with lots of blank pages, or, if you are used to writing at the computer, keep a file for your prayers. There is nothing unspiritual about praying at the computer with your eyes wide open.

Prayer beginnings may be hard. Here's an idea: begin each prayer with the words "Lord, today I..." Then tell the Lord about your day. What did you do? What made you excited? What made you sorry? What problems or highlights did you experience?

Often writing out these events will bring to mind other things you want to talk to God about. You may want to confess a sin. You may remember that you need to pray for a friend who is going through tough times. You may want to ask God a question about something you did not understand.

Sometimes those blank pages may result in sketches or poems or jotting down a Scripture verse you want to think about. Prayer journals are great to read months or even years later. They remind you of things that God has done in your life, even though you may not have been aware of it at the time.

Session 5

What the Bible says about Baptism

Out of the human race God called for himself people and made a _____ with them. God would extend his _____ to them. They, in turn, were to place their _____ in him and live _____ before him and be a _____ to the world. The Old Testament sign of their special relationship was _____ which, since Christ's first coming, has been replaced with _____. Like circumcision in the Old Testament, baptism does not save us, but assures us that God's _____ for his people are for us as well, if we place our _____ in Christ and sincerely desire to _____ him and _____ him.

What is the difference between "dedication" and baptism?

What does the water signify?

- The _____ away of our sin.
- The ongoing _____ of our lives by the Holy Spirit.
- The _____ of our sinful self with Christ and the _____ into the newness of the life he offers.

What the Bible says about the Lord's Supper

How it relates to the past:

- The Lord's Supper is rooted in the observance of the _____ .
- Every household was to select a _____ without _____ .
- For hundreds of years God's people celebrated the way God saved them from _____ .
- Later people would bring lambs to be sacrificed at the _____ .
- The blood of the lamb could only cover their sins, not _____ them away.
- Jesus was the _____ lamb of God who came to deal with the problem of sin _____ and _____ all.
- Jesus gave two traditional parts of the Passover meal new meaning. The unleavened bread would now represent his _____ and the third cup of wine would represent his _____ .

How it relates to the present:

- The Lord's Supper is a sign and a seal. A sign points to something. As a sign, the Lord's Supper is a reminder that Jesus' _____ and _____ were given for us. A seal certifies something. It assures us that God's promise of salvation is absolutely _____ for us.

How it relates to the future:

- The Lord's Supper helps us anticipate Christ's return. It is a reminder of _____ things to come.

One-on-one 5

Your Story

Have there been any moments in your life when you felt especially close to God?

Have you experienced God through the sacraments? If so, how?

In what ways do you most clearly experience God's presence?

What prayers or devotionals do you find spiritually nurturing?

Is there a Bible verse you find especially meaningful? What is it? If you don't have a favorite verse, talk to your Faith Friend about what verse might fit you.

How has the church helped you grow in the Lord?

Holy Habits - Pick two of the following passages to read and discuss.

Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13

How is the church like a body?

Read John 4:19-26

Is there any place or any way that's best to worship God? What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth?

Read Acts 16:22-34

What did the jailer's baptism mean to him?

Read Luke 24:13-34

This may have been the first Lord's Supper ever celebrated after Jesus' death and resurrection. What would you have said if

you were there?

Read Revelation 21:1-7

What do you look forward to in heaven?

Prayer Patterns

Because life can get hectic, you may think you are too busy to pray. But you can always pray “football prayers.”

Imagine that Jesus is beside you in every situation that you find yourself: he's on the school bus, in the classroom, on the playing field, in the cafeteria. He's always ready to listen to what you have to say. Praying to him in busy times is like passing a football when you're out on the field: Jesus will take it and run with it. You don't have to carry it anymore!

So if you notice that your school bus driving is kind of cranky, you could say a quick prayer for the bus driver; if someone says something nasty to you under her breath during class, you can tell God about your hurt feelings, and let go of them. You don't need to fold your hands or bow your head—Jesus is right beside you, listening to your thoughts and words. Many Christians practice these quick prayers all through the day. Some call them arrow prayers, flash prayers, or javelin prayers. You can call them whatever you like: Just be sure to keep sending them along to God.

What are some situations in your life where you could practice praying a quick prayer?

Sunday morning worship time

Elder participants:

Psalm 105 1-4

- ¹Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- ²Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
- ³Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴Look to the LORD and his strength;
seek his face always.

Matthew 5:14-16 The Message (MSG)

¹⁴⁻¹⁶“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re **going public** with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be

generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

Chorus 1

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Misc 1

(Interlude)
He is Lord Lord of all

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

CCLI Song # 6158927

Jesus Messiah

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus 1

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Misc 1

(Bridge)
All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Misc 2

(Ending)
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
The Lord of all
The Lord of all

Mighty to Save

Revelation song

Verse 1

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Chorus 1

Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Verse 2

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

Misc 1

(Bridge)
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

Verse 1

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Holy holy is He
Sing a new song to Him Who sits on
Heaven's mercy seat

Chorus 1

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come
With all creation I sing
Praise to the King of kings
You are my ev'rything
And I will adore You

Verse 2

Clothed in rainbows of living color
Flashes of lightning rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor strength and glory
And power be to You the only wise King

Verse 3

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder
At the mention of Your name
Jesus Your name is power breath and living water
Such a marv'lous mystery yeah

CCLI Song # 4447960

The Stand

Verse 1

**You stood before creation
Eternity in Your hand
You spoke the earth into motion
My soul now to stand**

Verse 2

**You stood before my failure
And carried the cross for my shame
My sin weighed upon Your shoulders
My soul now to stand**

Misc 1

**(Pre-Chorus)
So what can I say
And what can I do
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You**

Verse 3

**So I'll walk upon salvation
Your Spirit alive in me
My life to declare Your promise
My soul now to stand**

Chorus 1

**So I'll stand
With arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the One who gave it all
I'll stand
My soul Lord to You surrendered
All I am is Yours**

Going Public follow-up conversation | July

It has been almost three months since you have publicly professed your faith. Much can change in just a few months. School is out. You are into your summer schedule.

What kinds of things do you do during the summer months?

Have you had any new, interesting experiences? Vacations? Service trips? Jobs?

Now that you are a bit removed from the experience of Going Public, what things stick in your mind the most?

The first question you answered at the Going Public worship service was this:

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God sent to redeem the world, do you love and trust him as the one who saves you from your sin, and do you with repentance and joy embrace him as Lord of your life?

Sin and brokenness invade all areas of existence here on earth. How have you noticed brokenness in the world and in your own life? How do you respond to this brokenness?

Christ's sacrifice makes us right with God through his grace. Has the Holy Spirit given you hope, encouragement, and joy through this new identity? In what ways?

Has the experience of participating in the Lord's Supper affected you?

Take time to note some prayer requests and pray for each other. Remember to set a time to meet again in October.

Going Public follow-up conversation | October

The summer is over and school is in full swing again. Time to pack away your shorts and swimsuits and bring out all your sweaters and sweatshirts!

How will this school year be different from last school year?

What makes you most eager for this year? What good things could happen?

What makes you most nervous?

What activities do you enjoy in the fall?

If you can remember six months back to your public profession of faith, the second question you were asked was this:

Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God revealing Christ and his redemption, and that the confessions of this church faithfully reflect this revelation?

There are many different ways to connect with the Bible: regular scripture readings, Bible lessons in school, programs at church, worship, devotionals, online resources.

In what ways have you been able to engage with scripture?

Have you experienced Christ and his message of redemption in the last six months? If so, how?

Have you been able to find Christian community? Where? How does it impact you?

Take time to share stories and prayer requests. Remember to set a time to meet in January.

Going Public follow-up conversation | January

The new year marks a milestone. We look at where our life has been and also what things are in store for us.

How was your holiday season? What stuck out in your mind?

Do you make New Year's resolutions? If so, what are they?

Do you have plans for the new year? What do you hope will happen?

Nine months ago you stood in front of church and made public profession of faith. In a way, this is similar to entering a new year; this was a new start, a clean slate. You told people you rely on Jesus' grace to set you free from sin. Profession of faith is often described as a completion of your baptism. In fact, the third question you answered was this:

Do you accept the gracious promises of God sealed to you in your baptism and do you affirm your union with Christ and his church which your baptism signifies?

There are many ways we can think about baptism. One of the most tangible symbols is that of washing. Just as water washes away dirt, so baptism points to Jesus' washing away of our sin through his life and his sacrifice for us. We can often feel weighed down by the dirt of sin.

What gives us hope for a clean start?

If we feel dirty and stained by sin, is it too late?

Another idea tied to baptism is that we are "buried" with Christ under the waters and rise again with him victorious.

Do you feel empowered by your relationship with Christ? How does being a Christian inform our outlook on life?

Another way to conceptualize baptism is that God places his mark on us. He gave himself up for us and promises to care for us. We become part of his covenant people, and our profession of faith reaffirms this promise again.

How can this be comforting for us?

Has there been anything in your life that makes you wish you could get a clean start? Are you convinced of God's love for you?

Remember to pray for each other and set up a time to meet in April

Going Public follow-up conversation | April

Wow, can you believe it has been a whole year since you did Going Public!?

How has your life changed over the last year? Do you have different teachers?

Different friends? New teams or activities?

How have you grown? Physically? Mentally? Emotionally? Spiritually?

One year ago, the final question you answered at your profession of faith was this:

Do you promise to do all you can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen your love and commitment to Christ by sharing faithfully in the life of the church, honoring and submitting to its authority; and do you join with the people of God in doing the work of the Lord everywhere?

What are your spiritual gifts?

How can you use those gifts in the life of the church?

How have other Christians taught you or supported you in the last year?

It is always easy to find things that you don't like about church, but how has the church blessed you and nurtured your faith?

In the book of James it says a faith without works is dead. Where have you seen acts of love and service by others in your life? How have you given of yourself for Christ and for others?

Congratulations! You have followed through on one year of connection and conversation! Where it goes now is up to you. We hope that you will consider continuing your relationship and schedule additional meetings, but it is up to you!

Regardless of how your relationship unfolds, may the Holy Spirit will continue to assure you of your righteousness before the Lord through the grace of Jesus and propel you to acts of love and service.

Share prayer requests and pray for each other to close your time together.

Going Public post-retreat survey

Please tear out and return before you leave.

Name: _____

Do you intend to make profession of faith at the Going Public worship service?

___ Yes

___ No

___ I'm not sure yet

Would you like to participate in the Going Public worship service in an additional way?

___ Singing in the praise team

___ Playing an instrument. If so, what do you play?

___ Reading a scripture or praying

We encourage participants to share all or a portion of their Faith Expression at the worship service. Do you need any special resources or arrangements for sharing? Do you have any concerns about sharing your Faith Expression?

What feedback do you have about the Going Public retreat?

Your parents are eager to hear about the retreat and support you! When you return home, would you connect with them and share your faith expression? Remember to give them the note you wrote them, perhaps that is a perfect start for a conversation together.