

Directions: (HS ONLY: Must also read 1 book from the summer selections)

Creekside Church strives to impact the community around us by reaching, teaching, worshiping and helping our neighbors. We divide these into four groups: **Connect, Grow, Serve and Reach.** We would like you to choose which items interest you, but to complete the challenges with a balanced amount done in each category. Keep a binder or journal and be prepared to show them to a leader to get them signed off. **Be thinking:** *How does this grow my relationship with God? How can I use this to tell others about God? What new thing or idea did I learn about God?*

Summer Challenge 2018



Rewards:

(Leaders: Mark blue squares for challenges, orange circles for rewards)

4 Stamps: Prize Basket #1

8 Stamps: Prize Basket #2

12 Stamps: Retired Merchandise

16 Stamps: Treat with a leader of your choice (food or activity)

20 Stamps: New Youth Ministries Logo Merchandise

24 Stamps: Hume Lake Scholarship for a friend (**\$75.**)

28 Stamps: Hume Lake Scholarship for yourself (**\$75.**)

Connect

1. Read the book of Philippians. What should our attitude be in today's world. Based on Christ's example in Chapter 2? What does it mean "to live is Christ and to die is gain?" How can 1:3-11 encourage you in your everyday life? Reflecting on Philippians, what is God asking of you right now?
2. There are many styles and purposes the books of the Bible are written in. Categorize the Old and New Testament books into the following: Law, Wisdom, Historical, Songs, Gospels, Apocalyptic (Future Events), Epistles (Letters) & Prophets/Prophecy.
3. Go online & read Creekside's Statement of faith. Creeksideeg.com Why do we baptize? Why do we observe the Lord's Supper? Why is church membership important? Is there a part you don't understand or agree with?
4. Meet with one of our elders. (get a light orange colored flier for a list) Who is he? What is his role? Why did he choose to serve in this way? How can you pray for him?
5. Go online and read about giving. Creeksideeg.com/giving. Why, how and when should we give? Compare Acts 2:45, 2 Cor. 9:7 & Matt. 6:4 & 21
6. Define Relativism. Why is it dangerous? How does it differ from Christian beliefs? Why might you be harassed about not sharing in the relativism way of thinking?
7. Attend a main service or venue & take sermon notes. Learn about our church history (in the Creekside Life magazine, pg. 12 Feb/Mar/Apr/ May issue). In what ways is our church moving forward? (What is new and different? Hint — pg. 14, same magazine)
8. Christianity is divided up into many denominations; Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist. What are the similarities & differences? Are the differences big deals or are they just different opinions?
9. Do the purple "30 Days to Understanding the Bible" flier. Have you ever read the Bible all the way through before? Set up a Bible reading plan for the summer and show your leader your progress. What is your favorite book? Why?
10. Define "Apologetics." What is used to support the Christian message? Testimony? Science? Nature? What does 1 Peter 3:15 mean? Why is it important to have "an answer ready?"

Grow

1. Attend the 4-week Creekside University course on "Spiritual Habits" being taught by Creekside Staff members that begins in June. There is a minimal cost to register & you need to attend all classes; this is worth FOUR stamps!
2. Do the orange "A Moment with God at Sunset" flier. Also do the pink "Seek My Face" Prayer exercise on a different day and challenge yourself to pray for an hour!
3. Keep a prayer journal for a month. Be specific about a particular prayer for someone and diligently seek an answer. What did you discover about your conversations with God? What did you learn as you waited? What answer did God provide? How do you know that is what He said?
4. Do the red "Jesus the Con Man" fliers and work through the three scenarios. Living the Christian life is much different than simply accepting Jesus into your heart. (Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my ways are not your ways declares the Lord . . .")
5. Do a flier on TWO of the blue Old Testament Characters (Jonah, David, Ruth or Abraham.) This challenge can be repeated if you'd like to do all four.
6. Pick up a "Challenge Booklet" that HS used for preparation to the spring break mission trip to ICSac. Choose five of the 21 challenges to do and journal your experiences. What did you learn? What was the hardest? What can you use in your walk with God in the future?
7. Do the green "What is Your Spiritual Path" flier and take the quiz.
8. Do a yellow "Teen Topics" flier. Spend a week doing the short devotionals; one is on our relationship with God, the other option is our relationship with others. This challenge can be repeated if you'd like to do both.
9. Do the green Alta Sierra Biblical Gardens Booklet and go on a field trip to Grass Valley. (The gardens have free admission.) Bring a friend! OR Do the grey "Praying the Psalms in Nature" flier. Do this prayer walk experience and journal about your experience and what you learned.
10. How many names of God can you find? Do a google search, look in your Bible's concordance or ask your friends. Be sure to write a definition or instance where that name of God applies either in the Biblical account or in your personal life. Share at least 20 names of God and their definitions.

Serve

1. Go serve at Union Gospel Mission, Love Inc or the Elk Grove Food Bank. Write a brief description of what you noticed, how God showed up or things you learned by the experience. Record the dates you went.
2. Hang out with a senior citizen (not a family member!) Write about how you spent your time. What did you learn about their life? Were you two alike when they were your age?
3. Write an encouraging letter to someone who is sick or in the hospital that our Pastoral Care team can take to them. Or write a note to someone who has a loved one serving in the military, or someone in a service job (postman, police officer, fireman, sanitation worker.) Learn their name and verbally thank them. What is the most challenging part of their job? How can you pray for them?
4. Hang out with a leader of your choice, but serve *them!* What did you do? Tell them what their influence has meant to you.
5. Stay after the 11:30am main service and help clean up; (stack chairs, pick up trash etc.). Why are "behind-the-scenes" jobs important? What was it like to help in a "thankless" task?
6. Be an assertive prayer warrior. Ask two or three people what you can specifically be praying for them. Check back with them and pray *with* them a couple times this week.
7. Do the bright green "How I Treat My Parents" flier. In what areas do you need to work on? What is your plan to honor your parents this week? Read & discuss Ephes. 6:1 & Exodus 20:12.
8. Notice a household chore that needs to be done and do it without having to be told. (empty the dishwasher, mow the lawn, weed, do laundry, etc.) Did your parents notice? Did it really matter if they did? What was your attitude like as you did the job?
9. Apply to be on the Servant Leadership Team with youth ministries here at Creekside. (Tech, Welcome, Worship or Events). Get an application from your leader and pray about where God would have you serve. Why are you interested in the position you chose? Why is this role needed in the ministry?
10. Serve on Sunday in main service or the venue as a greeter or help lead families to classrooms as they check-in at the Children's Kiosk. How did it feel? Why is it important to greet people who come to church?

Reach

1. Bring a new friend to church with you and have them return for a second visit!
2. Do the lavender "Evangelism Style Questionnaire." What did you learn about yourself? Have you noticed this style being played out in your life? What is your plan to develop and use your style in the future?
3. Grab a Life Book and read it. Did you have any questions in Part 1? What was your favorite story of Jesus in Part 2 and why? Where are you in Part 3? Is there an area in Part 4 you struggle with or relate to?
4. Write an encouraging letter to a missionary. Where are they located? What are they doing? Learn about the country in which they serve. Show your letter to your leader before mailing.
5. Contact Mrs. Mann in the Youth office to get a copy of a "Every Picture Tells a Story." (She works Mon. thru Thurs. 8-3pm) Pick two of your favorites and write a story about what you think is happening in the photo. How would you live out your Christian faith in this situation? What would you say to the individual? How would you pray for them?
6. Take the SHAPE workshop on August 4. Discuss what you learned.
7. Pick up the cream colored "Write a Letter to a Prisoner" flier. There are many people persecuted around the world for their faith. Write an encouraging letter to them and show them to your leader before mailing.
8. What is CRU? Visit their website (www.cru.org) under "about" and "what we do." What are some communities they serve? Why are they an important outreach ministry?
9. What is Compassion International? We support three children with our Youth offerings each Sunday. Write a letter to them. Aide Ailyn Dominquez Santos and Dayana Guadalupe Lara Jimenez are both 8 year old girls in Mexico. Kleber Paulino Macena Santiago is a 7 year old boy in Brazil.
10. Write the definitions of "convert" and "salvation." What is the difference when speaking about Christianity? Why are we seeking to help people become disciples of Jesus instead of converting them to our religion? What makes Christianity unique that way?