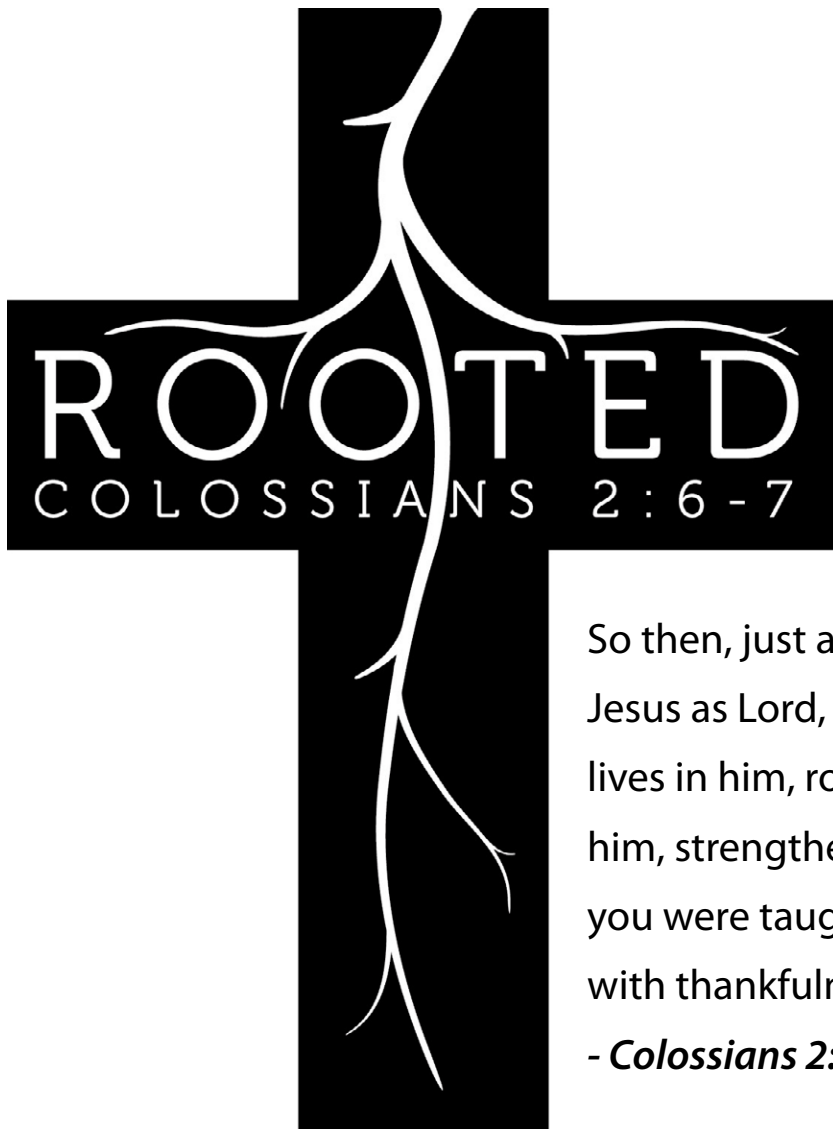


**2011-2012**

**Post-Event Bible Study**



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

*- Colossians 2:6-7*

## WELCOME and a QUICK REVIEW

Welcome to the third Event Bible Study for Quake participants! If you were able to use the Pre-Event Bible Study, and the Family Time Guides at the Quake, and if members of your group were able to attend Captive Free's Bible study trek at the Event, then you probably remember that each of these components highlighted a different aspect of our theme verse for this Event year, Colossians 2:6-7.

- In the **Pre-Event Study**, we looked at the question of identity. This passage, and, really, the first two chapters of the letter from which it comes, dive into the identity of Jesus Christ and, subsequently the ways in which being a follower of Jesus changes who we are in the world. Both our inner world and our relationship to the world around us are transformed by grace when we profess to be disciples of this counter-cultural, radically loving Messiah.
- The **Rooted Bible Study Trek** gave participants the opportunity to focus on the phrase **“strengthened in the faith as you were taught,”** and to identify the people in their lives who have been mentors in faithful living.
- During the **Family Time** discussions at the end of each day of the Quake, your group had the opportunity to **reflect on the events of the day**, and what they heard about ROOTED that day. If you were able to go deeper into the Family Time discussion guides, you may also have talked about the ways in which being a disciple of Christ distinguishes one from cultural and societal norms, and what a life **“overflowing with thankfulness”** might look like, and maybe even what it means to **“peripateō” – that is to “continue to live your lives in [Christ Jesus].”**

This **Post-Event Bible Study will now turn outward even more intentionally.** What does ROOTED mean in our lives in the commonwealth of God? If we are transformed by grace and faith in Christ Jesus, as this verse describes, what does that mean for our lives as we live them in the world?

## BIBLE STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Bible study are to provide Quake participants with opportunities to...

- ...reflect on their weekend at the Quake;
- ...identify specific characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors that distinguish a life rooted in Christ Jesus;
- ...consider what all this means for them, students in middle- and high- school. (And for the adult leaders too!)

## SUPPLIES

- Bibles for everyone
- The “Looking Ahead” handouts that participants filled out in the Pre-Event Bible Study (if you did this activity)
- One copy of “Small Group Questions” for each group (optional - master sheet included at the end of this leader guide)
- Copies of “Where Do We Grow From Here?” for everyone (master sheet included at the end of this leader guide)
- Writing utensils
- A dry erase board, or other large writing surface (optional)

## LOGISTICS

- **Text in bold** is text which you may wish to read aloud or summarize as you give instructions and explanations.
- *Text in italics* suggests possible responses to questions and discussion points.
- Text that is neither bold nor italicized need not be read aloud. These sections are more for your benefit as leader, as they suggest how to continue through the study, or give background information to inform your facilitation of the study.
- Discussion questions are designated both with **bold** font and with an arrowhead marker (»).

# ROOTED

## WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

(5-7 minutes)

### **INTROS: TAKE A FEW MOMENTS FOR INTROS AND WELCOMES.**

- **Optional:** If you wish to have more interaction, have participants cluster in groups of 2 or three and take 1 minute to come up with their best possible response to this statement

If our youth group were given superpowers for just one day, the three powers we should get are \_\_\_\_\_, and we would use them to make the world better by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **OPENING PRAYER: OPEN IN PRAYER, USING YOUR OWN WORDS OR THE WRITTEN PRAYER BELOW.**

Holy God,

We are Your grateful people! Thank You for our time together at the Quake, and for all the ways in which You spoke to us there. Thank You for this time together now, and for being here with us! Let Your Word take root in our hearts, so that we might grow in Your love!

Amen.

## LOOKING BACK AT THE QUAKE

### **Objectives**

- To revisit the Quake and draw out the meaningful and fun memories experienced by participants.

### **Supplies and Prep**

- “Looking Ahead” journaling sheets, filled out by participants during the Pre-Event Bible Study (if you did this activity).

### **Suggested time**

- 15-20 minutes

**Welcome to the “Post-Event Bible Study.” This is the last of the three Bible Studies that go along with our Quake experience. Today/Tonight we will be digging into our theme and theme verse one more time!**

### **Who remembers our theme verse? (Can anyone say it from memory?)**

Give participants a chance to try to recite the verse from memory. Then invite a participant to read Colossians 2:6-7:

**“Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”**

**Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)**

After reviewing the theme verse, move on to sharing memories and thoughts from the Quake. If the group is large, you may wish to do this in small groups of 4-6:

Invite each participant to share their top three memories of the Quake weekend. Share pictures, funny stories, “God moments,” etc. Don’t feel you have to rush this part of the discussion. It’s good for everyone to reminisce about this shared experience, and to hear what others enjoyed. Be sure that everyone has a chance to share, laugh and recap their favorite memories. And be sure that adult leaders also share their highlights too!

After everyone has talked about their highlights, return their "Looking Ahead" pages (from the Pre-Quake Bible Study\*). Ask participants to look over what they wrote. Then ask them to reflect on statement #3. ("Here's what I hope to get out of the Quake weekend.") You may wish to ask:

- » **Were your expectations and hopes met?**
- » **Which experiences of the weekend exceeded your expectations? Did anything surprise you?**

You may also wish to ask them to respond to one or more of the following statements:

- » **For me, the most challenging thing about the Quake was...**
- » **The main thing that I learned at Quake was....**
- » **Since the Quake, one big question that's been on my mind is....**

\*Note: If your group wasn't able to do the pre-Quake study, use the statements above for reflective discussion.

## **WHAT DOES "ROOTED" LOOK LIKE NOW THAT WE'RE HOME?**

### **Objectives**

- To encourage participants to reflect upon their personal experiences at the Quake, and their "God moments."
- To think more deeply about what it means to bring the Quake home to their families and communities.

### **Supplies and Prep**

- 1 copy of the Small Group Questions for each group (Optional – Master sheet included at the end of this leader's guide.)
- Writing Utensils (optional)

### **Suggested time**

- 15-20 minutes

**Before the Quake, during the Captive Free Bible Study Trek at the Quake, during our Family Time discussions, and in each of the four big Celebrations, we had the opportunity to look at ROOTED from different angles.**

If you have a dry-erase board, or large writing surface, you may wish to jot down responses to the next two questions.

- » **Who remembers what we talked about in the Bible studies and Family Times?**
  - **Pre-Event Bible Study:** *We looked at the question of identity. Both our inner world and our relationship to the world around us are transformed by grace, and when we profess to be disciples of this counter-cultural, radically loving Messiah, it means critiquing societal norms and expectations. We grow differently when we are rooted in Christ, and this difference affects our attitudes and our values in ways that people notice.*
  - **Rooted Bible Study Trek:** *Participants had the opportunity to focus on the phrase "strengthened in the faith as you were taught," and to identify the people in their lives who have been mentors in faithful living. Participants did a craft with beads to symbolize their mentors, and the people to whom they themselves are mentors.*
  - **Family Time Discussions at the end of each day of the Quake:** *Participants had the opportunity to reflect on the events of the day, and to think about what they learned, where they saw God in their day, and what they heard about ROOTED that day. If you were able to go deeper into the Family Time discussion guides, you may also have talked about the ways in which being a disciple of Christ distinguishes someone from cultural and societal norms, and what a life "overflowing with thankfulness" might look like. And if you really got far in the discussion guide, you maybe even talked about what it means to "peripateō" – that is to "continue to live your lives in Christ Jesus."*

**At the Quake, we heard about ROOTED from the speakers and musicians. During each Celebration, there was a different focus:**

- » **Who remembers what the main ideas were for each of the big group Celebrations?**
  - *Friday – Our relationship with God; What God has done for us in Jesus Christ;*
  - *Saturday morning - Our relationships with the people in our families;*
  - *Saturday evening – Our relationships with our friends;*

- *Sunday morning – Our relationship to our neighbors, near and far in all the world.*

Through Jesus, humanity has been given a new kind of Life, one that has Love – perfect, never-failing Love – as its source as well as its purpose. Life rooted in Christ is fed daily by this kind of strong, unending, unconditional Love, a love that is found nowhere else in the world. As God’s people, we are called to live this Love out daily in everything we do, every word we say, every interaction with our neighbor. This is what it means to share the Gospel.

### **SMALL GROUPS (IF YOU WISH)**

For a change of pace, you may wish to have participants form discussion groups of 3-4, and then invite them to consider the following question(s). For easy access by the groups, write the questions on the dry erase board beforehand, or distribute them on a handout to each group. There is a master for this handout at the end of this leader’s guide.

- » **Do you find that living this kind of life is easy or difficult? Why?**

You may wish to continue with one or more of these additional questions.

- » **Does being rooted in Christ mean that you have to stop doing all the things you normally do, and remove yourself from the life you have been living?**
- » **Does it mean giving up all your friends? Do all of your friends have to be church-going people?**
- » **What if you still have questions and doubts about my faith? Does that mean that you’re not rooted in Christ anymore?**

Ideas for responses to these questions:

*When a tree is rooted in something, its life is determined by the quality of whatever it’s rooted in. If the soil is bad, lacking nutrients and water, the tree will suffer. If the soil is good, the tree will thrive and bear fruit. Whatever the tree absorbs from its root bed will determine the shape and height and strength of the tree it supports. (Or doesn’t support.)*

*Being rooted in Christ is about where we start and end our days. It’s the jumping off point for all that we do. When we begin an endeavor, or have a conversation, or think about how to spend our time, we are always measuring our decisions up against “the faith which [we] were taught” (Col. 2:7).*

*Being rooted in Christ doesn’t always mean leaving the people and things in our life (although sometimes it might). For most of us, it doesn’t mean that. For all of us, it is about attitude:*

- *How does one who knows the Love of God and understands that grace is a free, lavish gift look upon the neighbor? The enemy? The family members that we go home to every night?*
- *How does one who knows the Life of being in Christ respond to the very real everyday needs of this world – poverty, hunger, crime, persecution, racism, oppression, injustice? Being rooted in Christ means that we have the energy and strength to live for our neighbor and proclaim the Gospel without hesitation in word and deed.*
- *How does such a person respond to the very real everyday needs of their immediate surroundings: kids who are bullied, kids who bully, teachers who are demanding, parents who just don’t understand, parents who do really neat things, siblings who annoy, siblings who are fun, friends who do hurtful things, friends who do kind things, strangers in the mall, etc.?*

*Being rooted in Christ also means that we are being fed, constantly, by our Source of life. It is okay to wonder and to not understand. God is a BIG God! Nobody, not even the most learned scholar, can wrap their mind completely around God! Engaging our doubt and thinking about God-questions from many angles is a healthy spiritual practice – it gives us the chance to weigh things out, and to discern the truth. It helps us to know why we believe what we believe.*

### **LARGE GROUPS**

If you have moved into small groups, have participants rejoin the large group again at this point. Invite each group to share one or two points from their discussion. Then continue:

- » **How do we find the balance between living in the world, among our friends, family and neighbors, and living differently in this world?**

*There is no easy answer for this, and each individual will find that there are things that work for them and things that don’t. For each person, the habits, behaviors, Bible verses, and means (music, a walk in the woods, conversation with others, etc.) through which they experience God most closely will differ.*

*Of course, resources like Scripture, corporate worship, daily devotional time (however that takes place – music, walk in the woods, conversation, etc.), and prayer open our lives to God’s encounter on a regular basis. Perhaps the most difficult aspect of a life of discipleship in our busy busy 21st century world is commitment to the discipline that makes these things happen. (“Disciple” and “discipline” both come from the same root word, which means “student.” A life of discipleship is a lifelong learning process!)*

*One discipline that helps us find the balance of living counter culturally and with radical love in our homes, neighborhoods and world is the practice of accountability. Whatever our personal spiritual practices, we need the faith community to have our backs, and to keep us on track.*

*Perhaps your group might like to try having accountability partners for a month or so – people with whom they share about what’s going on with them each week, with whom they pray and bounce around ideas for how to handle difficult situations or respond to the need within and around them.*

*(Note that accountability partners are not critics. Their response is to listen, and to cheer on. When things are not going quite right, they do not judge. They instead ask the questions, “How can we work on this together? Is there anything I can do to help?”)*

## **WHERE DO WE GROW FROM HERE?**

### **Objectives**

- To give participants a chance to consider how they may have changed since their experience at the Quake.
- To give participants a chance to reflect on “what’s next” after the Quake

### **Supplies and Prep**

- Journal sheet: “Where Do We Grow From Here?” (master sheet included at the end of the leader’s guide)
- Writing utensils

### **Suggested time**

- 10-15 minutes

Invite participants to take a few minutes to journal about their thoughts since the Quake on the “Where Do We Grow From Here?” sheets. (There is a master sheet included at the end of this leader’s guide.)

Give them 6-8 minutes (more if it seems they need it) to work on this. Then invite volunteers to share one thing they wrote, if they wish. It’s okay if people do not want to share. Some of their reflections and observations about themselves might be very personal. There may be things that they are still processing. The important thing is that they spend some time in reflection, to wrap up all that they’ve experienced, and to consider where it might lead next.

## **CLOSING**

Thank everyone for their participation, both in the Quake and in this time of reflection and Bible study. Then invite someone to close in prayer, either using the prayer below or their own words.

**Holy God,**

**We are Your grateful people! Thank You for this time together, and for being here with us! We go out now in Your holy name to bear witness to Your love and grace! Let Your Word take root in our hearts, that we may live lives overflowing with thankfulness, so that our lives may bear good fruit to feed a hungry world!**

**Amen!**

## Where Do We Grow From Here?

God's presence in our lives is a never-failing constant, though we may not always think about it or be aware of it. But sometimes we have the opportunity to really see that we are in the midst of a special encounter with God. Hopefully you had a few of those moments at the Quake. When God meets us in ways that really get our attention, we can't help but come out of such experiences as different people - different from the person we were when we went in.

Take some time to reflect upon today's/tonight's discussion, and about "where you are at" now, after the Quake. (Feel free to write on the back, if necessary.)

1. Do you think that you are different now from the person you were before the Quake? If so, how?

2. What does a life that is rooted in Christ Jesus look like?

3. What is one habit or activity that you would like to try that could help you live that kind of life as you...

...continue to grow in your faith?

...learn to serve and to love better?

4. How can this community (your youth group, your congregation) support you as you grow and bear fruit? How can you support members of this community?

