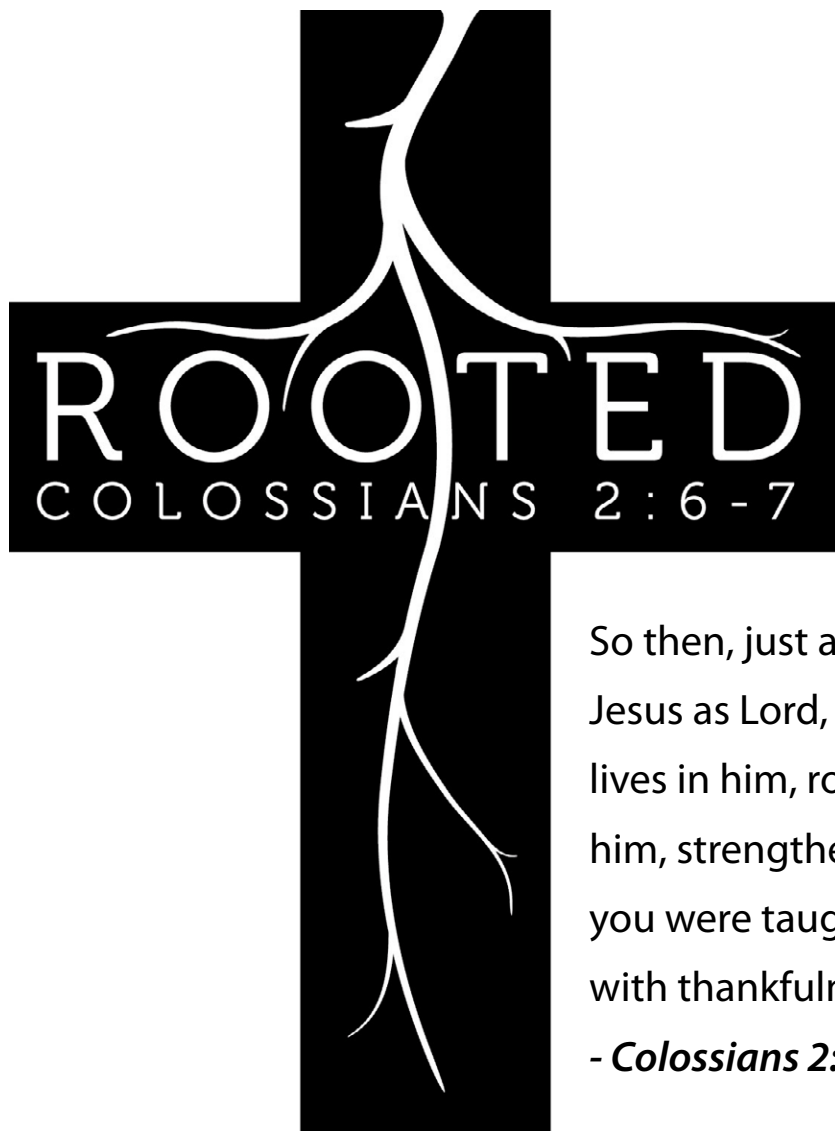


2011-2012

Jr. Guide Pre-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

A NOTE TO THE LEADERS

Thank you for leading this Junior Guide Pre-Event Bible Study with your Junior Guides! This is an important time to empower, teach, and build community among the Junior Guides, as they prepare to assist with leadership of their church groups. Know that your role in this is to help equip leaders of the Church for a lifetime in ministry. Wow! What an important, life-changing mission!

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JUNIOR GUIDE BIBLE STUDY:

- **Bolded** material to be read aloud by a leader. You may use the words written here or summarize using your own words.
- *Italicized* material notes possible answers to questions.
- Plain text that is neither *italicized* nor **bold** offers instruction for the leader. This does not need to be shared with the group unless deemed appropriate by you!
- Think positively and be encouraging. This may be the first time these young folks sense God calling them to be leaders in faith. Reassure them that they can do it!
- Allow time for all to share, and encourage all to listen with reverence. It takes a lot of guts to talk openly and honestly about faith.
- If your group is large, split into small groups where it is helpful and appropriate.
- Be flexible. Be ready to adjust to meet the needs of your group. Skip, add, shorten, lengthen, or take a tangent where it leads. This is merely a guide for the Bible Study.
- Have fun!

May God bless your ministry with this group of young leaders, and use them to teach you about your own faith and leadership.

Peace, Fearless Leaders!

Tera Michelson, author of the 2011-2012 Junior Guide program

Rooting On the Junior Guides

SUPPLIES & PREP

- Name tags, markers
- Plant pictures pages (found at the end of this Bible Study)
- Bible
- Newspaper
- potted plant (preferably root bound)
- sketch paper
- ink pads
- Quake schedules
- sealing plastic bags

NAME TAGS

Greet the Junior Guides as they arrive. Have each student create a name tag. Ask them to write their name and draw or write something on the tag that represents them. Describe your name tag to the Junior Guides as an example. Encourage the Junior Guides to explain their name tags to each other as they meet.

PLANTED

Show the Junior Guides the pages with various pictures of vegetation. Invite the Guides to find a small token from their pocket or purse to represent them, like a game piece. They can use a coin, earring, gum wrapper or marker lid.

Look at these pictures of plants. Using your token, mark a plant picture that most represents your current faith life. Be ready to explain why you chose the way you did. Allow the Junior Guides time to choose and mark their pictures. Then, one by one, touch each token and allow its owner to share. For example, **Who is the Montana quarter? Why did you pick the cactus?** If you have a large group, divide into pairs or small groups to share.

We have each experienced unique faith journeys. The truth is, we all feel like these different plants at different times in our lives. No matter where we've been growing, or how we've been growing, our journeys intertwine here and now as we prepare for the Quake. Thank you for being a Junior Guide! I pray the upcoming Quake will be an opportunity for you to grow in your faith, and for you to encourage the faith journeys of the students you will help lead.

ROOTED

The theme for the Quake this year, "Rooted," comes from Colossians 2:6-7. You will hear this verse over and over again. Let's read it together now. Ask the Junior Guides to open their Bibles to Colossians to read along. Invite a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

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

These verses tell us to be "rooted" in Christ. What does it mean to be "rooted" in something? (*Attached to a support, receiving nourishment/water, surrounded, deeply and firmly planted, based in something.*)

What does a plant need to grow? (*Rich soil, nutrients, water, air, sunshine.*) **Often the way a plant looks above ground is an indication of what is going on underground, at its roots. If a plant has what it needs to grow, it looks full and happy and strong. If it doesn't, it looks withered or trampled or wimpy.**

What do we need to grow in our faith? What does God want our faith roots to be planted in? (*God's word, faithful friends and family, prayer, worship, thankfulness, service.*)

Pull a root bound plant from its pot to show to the Junior Guides. Talk about what happens when a plant's roots get deeper than its environment. **This plant needs more room to grow: more soil, more nourishment, more water, more sun. When it is given a bigger pot, it will respond by growing into its new space.**

You are like this plant – ready for a more challenging environment. Being a Junior Guide is a chance for your roots to reach deeper, your branches to reach further.

Gently pull apart the root ball of the plant over the newspaper. **Sometimes, when a plant gets a new home, the gardener has to gently move the roots apart, or even cut into them so they are ready to grow some more in fresh soil. The root system has to adjust to its new spot. God is the master gardener, working on our root systems of faith.**

FAMILY OF FAITH TREE

Gather around a piece of sketch paper with several stamp pads within easy reach. Make a Family of Faith Tree with the Junior Guides. First, have an artistic volunteer use a brown marker to sketch in a tree trunk with bare branches. Beneath the trunk and a line of ground, add roots.

As you prepare for the Quake, consider who or what is a part of your Family of Faith Tree. Press your thumb into the ink, then stamp a print on the bottom of the paper for each person, place, or moment that mark a significant root in your faith journey.

Who was bold enough to share God and God's love with you? Who or what was an influence to your faith? Lead the Junior Guides to use the markers to write names and dates near each print as they share about their faith roots. You may need to limit the sharing to two "roots" of faith for each Guide.

These are important roots to our faith. Now we need to fill in the leaves on the tree. Who is currently in your community of faith? Who encourages and supports you in your faith in God? Who leads and inspires you? Teaches and cheers you? Add these people as leaves on the tree with more thumbprints. Record their names with markers and share about these important figures.

As Junior Guides, you are an important part of our community of faith. You will be the peer leaders to our youth group. Add yourself as a leaf on the Family of Faith Tree. Be sure that each Guide adds themselves to the tree as a marked thumbprint.

We pray that the Quake will be a weekend of growth, branching out, deepening your faith roots, and extending your Family of Faith Tree. Post your Family of Faith Tree in your meeting space. Plant the seed for the Junior Guides to lead this activity with the Quake students at a post-Quake meeting.

QUAKE COVENANT

Explore expectations of the Junior Guides at the Quake. Assign specific leaders for key moments in the Quake weekend: prayers as you travel and when you eat meals, Family Time leaders, readers during devotional moments, serving as examples in behavior and participation, etc. Discuss specific Quake students who may need special attention or guidance from the Junior Guides during the event. Include specific promises you, as an adult leader, make to the Guides, as well as promises and rules the Guides make to the adult leaders, Quake students, the church, Youth Encounter and the hotel. These promises can include your policies on use of cell phones, other electronics, behavior, and other housekeeping tidbits like bedtimes, self-care, etc.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pose like a tree, with your branches reaching out for our closing prayer.

God, Open our hearts to let the Quake be an opportunity to grow our Family of Faith Trees. Lead us to branch out to meet new friends, and connect on a root level with old friends. Guide us to be the best Junior Guides we can be. Amen.

BEFORE YOU PART...

Give each Guide a sealing plastic bag. Give a homework assignment to collect a soil sample to bring to the Quake. **Be sure to note from where you take the soil. You will use it at the Quake with the other Junior Guides from other churches.**



