



## **IMPACT Weekend 2012**

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# Session One

**(Friday Evening)**

Spend some time getting to know your students. For the rest of this weekend to be successful, this is crucial relationship building time. If you get nothing else out of this first session, make sure you get to know all your students by name and learn something about them.



**Opener:** Two Truths and a Lie

Ask everyone to go around the circle and introduce themselves (name, school, favorite ice cream, etc) and share 3 things about themselves, one of which is a lie. Then have your group guess which is the lie.

Earlier at tonight's worship service we learned about what it means to be rooted in Jesus. We talked about what it means to live that out and pursue God.



**Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7

"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."



## Discussion

*Side Note: All of these questions are just suggestions. If you want to rabbit-trail/stick closely to the questions/do your own thing, feel free.*

**The Main Question to head toward is** → "What does it mean to be rooted in Christ, and how are we doing with that in our own lives?"

What do you think this verse is talking about?

Tell us about the best day of your life. *(Pause for responses)*

Did you feel God's presence on that day? *(Pause)* Why/Why Not?



# Session Two

## (Saturday Morning)

Now that you've gotten to know the students a little better from last night, it's important to continue to go deeper with them. Hopefully you got some sleep last night, but even if you didn't, it's important that you bring massive amounts of energy to the morning session! Push them a little on answering questions, but let them get to the answers more on their own, if possible. Make sure you're referring to students by their name, and let them know that they're important to you.



Opener: The Interview

Divide your students into pairs. Ask them to interview each other for a few minutes. Each interviewer has to find 3 interesting facts about their partner. Bring everyone back together and ask everyone to present the 3 facts about their partner to the rest of the group. Make sure this game moves along fairly quickly, or some of your more restless middle-schoolers will start to lose focus.

We've been talking about what it means to be rooted in Christ. Last night, we talked about how we can move from being shaken in our faith and not steadfast to actually being stuck to Jesus. Let's read our verse again.



**Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7

"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."



**The Main Idea to head toward is** → If Jesus Christ is our Lord, our lives are no longer about ourselves. If that's true, what should the 'thankfulness' in this verse look like in our lives?

*(Remember that you should feel freedom to rabbit trail, explain, ask different questions, or ignore these questions entirely.)*

What's the best Christmas gift you've ever received?

What about the worst, most awkward?

How did you respond to receiving both?

When we receive gifts from our parents, those gifts are meant to make us value the one who gave it to us, not just the gift itself.

Can you think of a time when you took something someone gave you for granted?

When we receive the gift of Jesus, our verse says that we should be overflowing with thankfulness.

How are we doing on that? How could we do better?

How do you best say "thank you" to someone for an awesome present?

If we've been given Jesus, His forgiveness, and a way to be in relationship with God, how should we respond?

I know that when I receive really good gifts for Christmas, watch a really good football game, or see an awesome movie, I want to share with all of my friends.

If Jesus is what our life is about... if he is what we're most excited about... if Jesus Christ is our *Lord*, our lives are no longer about ourselves. We should be thankful for all that he has done in our lives and respond in the way that we seek to obey him.



Closer: Ask students to consider how God may use them as we go on our mystery trip this afternoon. Ask someone to close in prayer.

**Facilitator Notes:**

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# Session Three

(Saturday Evening)

This is the last session you'll have with your students. As tempting as it may be to rush into games/wrestling/break-dance-competitions, this may be the time that your students need to talk through what happened or didn't happen in worship this evening. Don't miss this opportunity to let students make decisions, talk about decisions they are considering, and discuss what God is calling them to in life. You may have students who want to accept Christ, talk about baptism, feel called to ministry, are stuck in abusive homes, don't know how to quit doing drugs, are struggling with their sexuality, or just desperately need someone to talk to.

In summary, this is a great opportunity to represent Jesus for your students.



Opener: Recapping the weekend...

Discuss the weekend and how everything has been going. See what's gone well, what they remember most, and what really stuck out to them as being from God this weekend.

Let's re-read our verse for the weekend:



**Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-7

"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."



The Main Idea to head to is → "Since we are rooted in Christ, we should continue to live our lives for him, lighting up the darkness around us."

*Summarize the Weekend:* Friday night we talked about what it means to be rooted in Christ. This morning we talked about the result of being rooted; it should lead us to

having thankful hearts and living that out. Tonight, we talked about another result of being rooted in Christ; the desire to light up the darkness around us.

What did y'all think about tonight?

Let's read a verse from Philippians (Phil 2:12-16)

What sticks out to you about this verse?

How are we supposed to be the light in the world, or shine among the world like stars?

Stars used to help people navigate and find their way. Tonight, we talked about how our lives are meant to point the way to Jesus.

Do you think that's important? If you could show Jesus and all the love/joy he's brought into your life to one person, who would it be?

Reflect on this: Are you pointing the way to Jesus by the way you live your life?

If you could change one thing about your life, to be a better light pointing towards Jesus, what would it be?

If you needed to remove one thing from your life, to be a better light pointing towards Jesus, what would it be?

There's a difference between deciding you want to follow Jesus and shining your light into the world, and then actually doing it. If you're honest, which one are you doing?



Closer: Tonight we talked about how being rooted in Jesus leads to us shining as lights out into the world, lights that point back to Jesus. We all need to reflect on what that looks like and how we're doing at that. (Ask someone to close in prayer.)

If some of your students want to continue to talk, let them talk as long as they're willing. This is your chance to let lots of things happen, whether it means changes in their lives, coming to Jesus, talking about the Gospel, or if nothing else, having a seed planted!

**Facilitator Notes:**

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