



**Students,**

Included are seven after-camp devotions you can use to continue the FUGE Camps study of Godly decision making and discernment. Even if you did not attend FUGE Camps this summer, you can still benefit from these devotions. We hope God will speak to you through this material.

**SOURCE:** KNOWN, Decisions unit, 2011, LifeWay Student Ministry

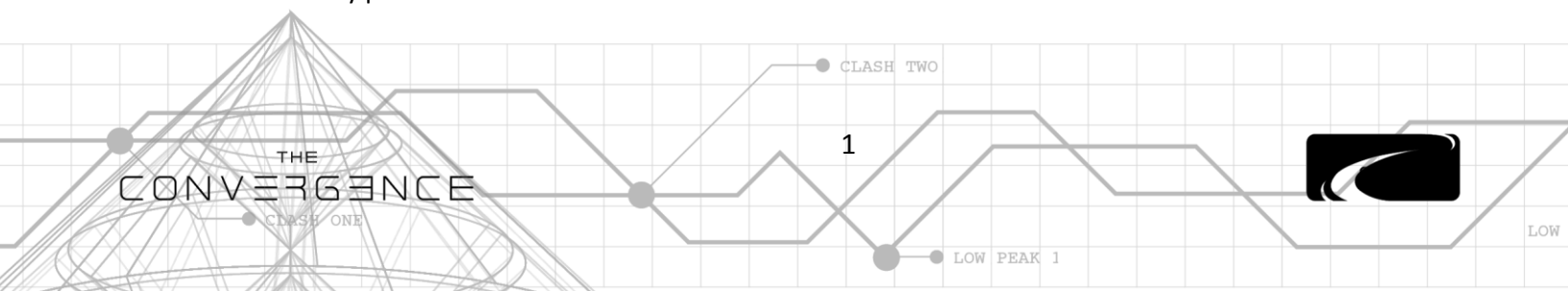
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## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME # 1

### Know the Word

Every good coach has a playbook and a game plan. The playbook includes X's and O's for each play to show what each player should do. The game plan is made in preparation to face a certain opponent. The team creates a game plan to attack specific weaknesses of an opponent and to defend against specific strengths of an opponent.

Through His Word, God gives you a playbook for everyday living. Sometimes, though, you may have trouble knowing the game plan because you struggle to see how God's Word speaks to the decisions you make each day.

For example, the Bible doesn't come out and give directions on whether or not you should watch a specific movie, so how can you make this decision based on God's Word?

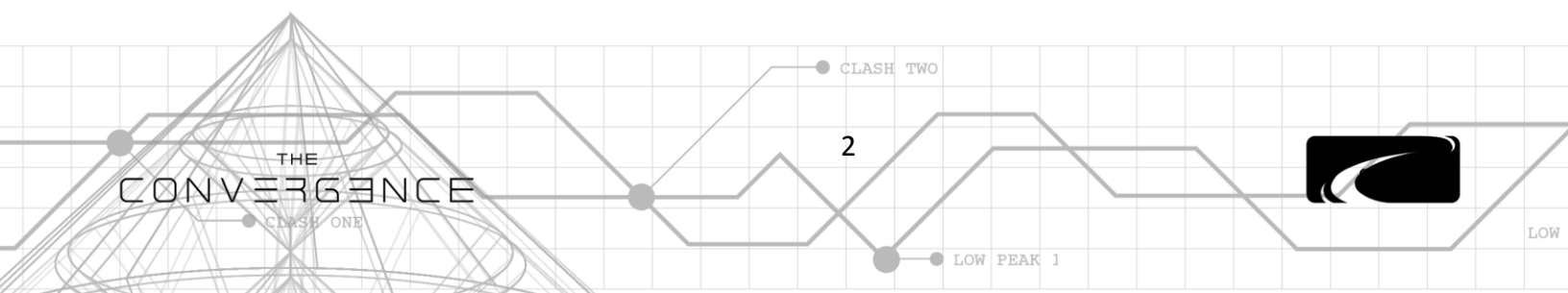
### Read 2 Timothy 2:15-16. What should you pursue?

### What are some ways that you can better apply the truth of God's Word?

In order to handle or apply God's Word, you must know His Word. If you know God's Word, you can use the principles you learn in order to make good decisions every day. (For a principle that applies to what you watch, see Ephesians 5:3-4.)

### My Prayer

Lord, help me to know Your Word and to use the principles found in it as a guide to make informed, moral choices.



## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME # 2

### Pleasing God or Pleasing Others

When was the last time you struggled with making a decision because you were worried about what another person or group of people would think? Everyone, at some point, struggles with worrying about what other people think. In the process of making a decision, you may come to a point where you know that no matter what choice is made, someone will not be satisfied. Most Christians genuinely don't want to do anything to give another believer reason to struggle, but at the same time we want to obey God in everything.

God's Word speaks to this struggle that we all face.

**Read Galatians 1:10. What struggle did Paul describe here? Describe a time when you felt this struggle in your own life.**

**Whom should you strive to please as you make decisions?**

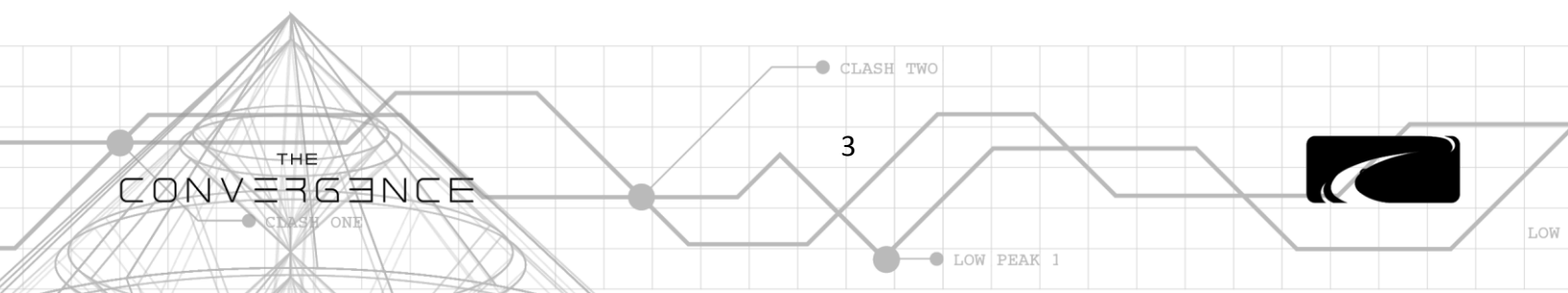
**What are some ways that we try to win the approval of others?**

Although you probably could have answered this question without reading the verse, it is good to know that Paul—who penned a good part of the New Testament—thought about this issue. He felt the pressure to please people, yet he chose to please God. This verse can encourage you in your decision-making struggles.

Concentrate on seeking God's approval in the things you do and say today.

### My Prayer

God, help me to seek to please You in spite of what others may think.



## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME # 3

### Like a Dog

Do you like to find verses in the Bible that strike you as funny? For example, would you really think that the Bible talks about bodily functions? It does.

**One such verse is found in Proverbs 26:11. Read it now. Since Proverbs is a book of wise sayings, what lesson do you think you can learn from this verse?**

Even people who are wise sometime make mistakes. So, what separates the wise from the foolish? According to the verse you read in Proverbs, the foolish person repeats the same mistakes. This verse would also mean that a wise person learns from his or her mistakes.

**What is a current situation in your own life where you keep making the same bad choice expecting a different outcome?**

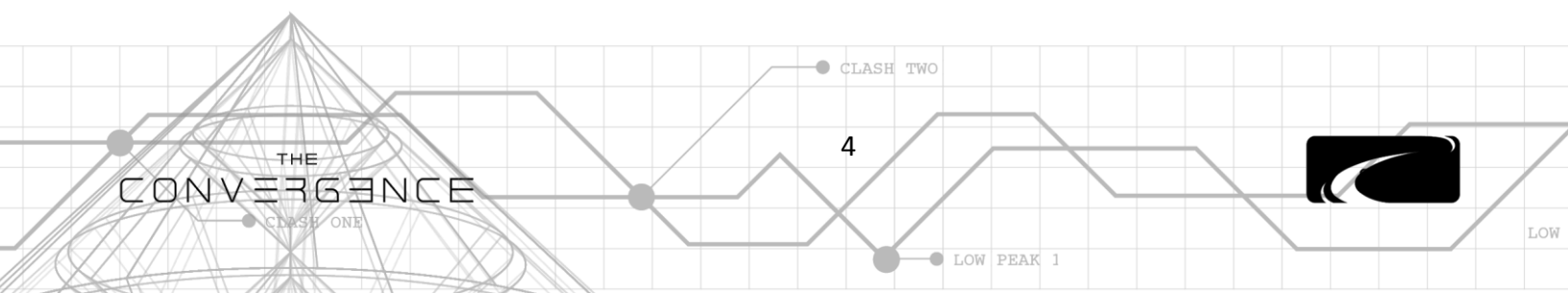
**What have you seen happen with a friend or relative who falls into this trap?**

**Read Proverbs 26:17 and 20. What do you learn from these verses?**

God wants you to learn from your mistakes. More importantly, He wants you to learn from His Word.

### My Prayer

Lord, help me to learn from my mistakes so I don't repeat them.



## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME # 4

### One of Those Days

Think about the last time you had “one of those days” where your schedule was packed from the time you woke up until the time you went to bed . . . and on the same day, the teacher added an extra assignment and you couldn’t remember where you left your cell phone. On days like that when you haven’t had time with the Lord, you probably wouldn’t have the time or energy to help someone who crossed your path. Days like that can cause you to question whether all the plans you make really matter.

**Read Proverbs 16:9 and 19:21. What do these verses say to you about all the plans that we often make?**

**Who has the best plan? Why?**

God has a plan for you—not just any plan, but a good plan. It is reassuring to know that in spite of the way life seems so out of control sometimes, you can rest knowing that God is in control and you don’t have to be.

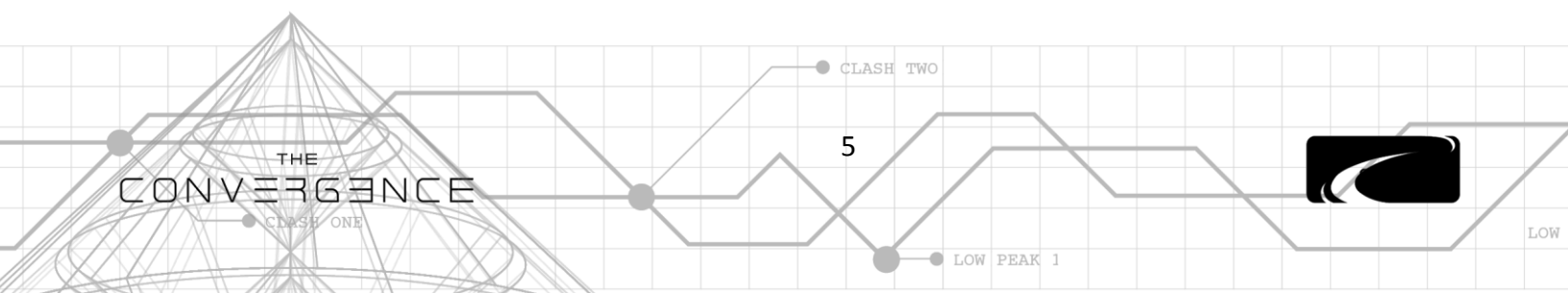
**How does it make you feel to know God has a plan—especially a plan for you?**

**What can you do to help you remember that God is in control and has a plan the next time you are having “one of those days”?**

Remember, God’s plan is a good plan. Try following His plan today.

### My Prayer

God of heaven and earth, rule in my heart today—and in those days when life seems out of control.



## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME #5

### Take the Plunge

Do you remember the first time you jumped off a diving board into a pool? How did you feel? I have to admit that the first time I took the plunge, I was terrified. In spite of my fear, I jumped anyway, because my mom had promised me some sort of reward. After hitting the water, though, I realized how fun it was to jump in.

Sometimes, making a big decision is like jumping off the diving board. It is really scary, but after you finally do it, you wonder why it took you so long.

**Do you think fear sometimes keeps you from making decisions? Why?**

**Read Hebrews 11:6. What does this verse say that it takes to please God?**

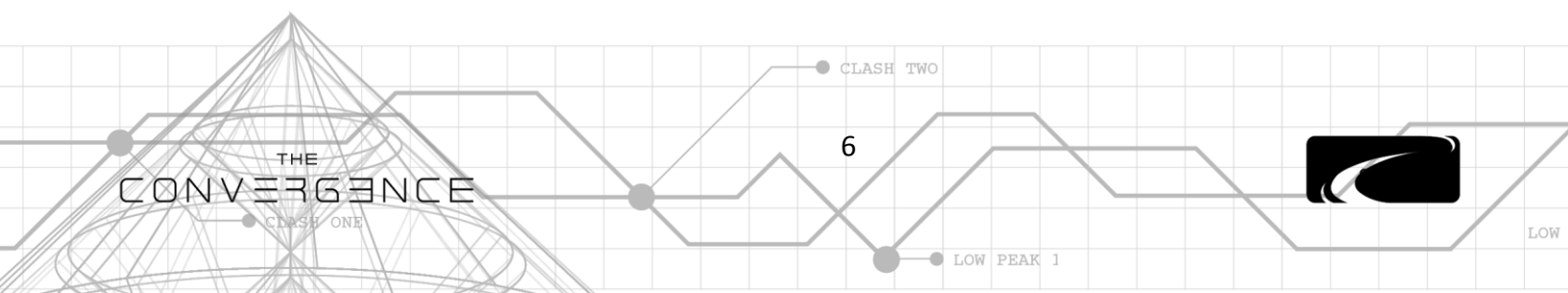
**Go back and read Hebrews 11:1-5. What do you discover about faith in these verses?**

When you are trying to make a decision, there comes a point when you just have to step out in faith and trust that God is not going to let you fall if you have been seeking Him.

Even if you make the wrong decision, God is still faithful. The key is to trust in God's character and not your understanding of the situation. (Sound familiar? See Proverbs 3:5.)

### My Prayer

God, I know that You will be faithful. Help me to seek You and to trust You.



## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME #6

### Ask the Expert

You probably seldom read a newspaper, but if you flip through one, you will find advice columns on a wide range of issues. You have more places to seek advice than ever before in history. Sure, you have your friends, but there are other places too. You can read magazines, read other people's blogs, or ask experts online, just to name a few.

### Where do you turn when you need advice?

### Do you think your option is a wise place to look for advice? Why?

### Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. Where do these verses say to seek help?

### Why should we seek help from God?

Many people can quote verse 11, but too often we miss the promises in verses 12 and 13.

### How are you supposed to seek the Lord?

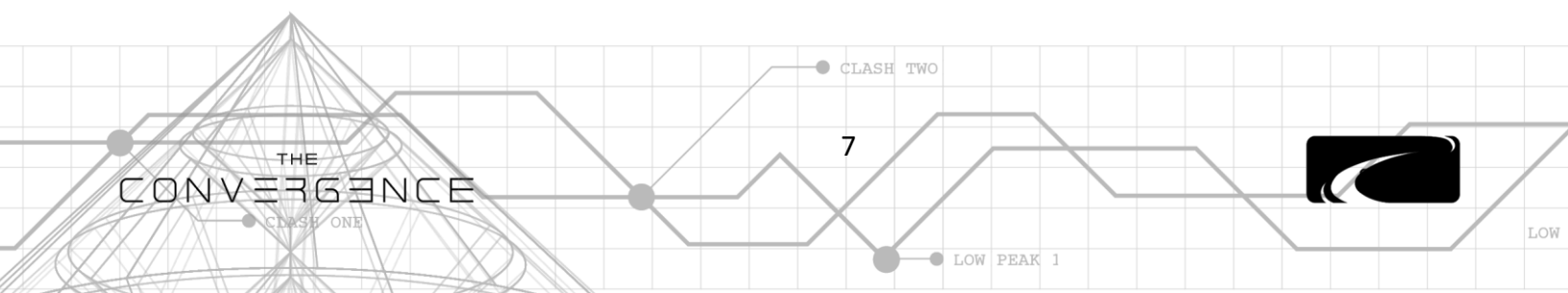
### When you pray and seek the Lord, what do these verses say will happen?

God desires for you to go to Him when you need help making wise choices. Unlike us, God sees the past, present, and future. He knows what is best for you and has good plans for you.

You probably already know that He has good plans, but do you go to Him in prayer and wholeheartedly seek out His good plans? If not, take some time right now to do that.

### My Prayer

Lord, help me to seek You with all of my heart.





## AFTER CAMP QUIET TIME #7

### Good vs. Best

*My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers is a favorite devotional guide for many people. One of the reasons Christians enjoy reading his thoughts is because he often speaks to the issue of choosing what is good versus choosing what is best. You would agree, most likely, that choosing what is best would be considered choosing wisely.

**When was a time you were faced with a choice that put two seemingly good things against each other? Describe the situation.**

As a student today, there are uncountable “good” things competing for your time and attention. *My Utmost for His Highest* states, “The things that are right, noble, and good from the natural standpoint are the very things that keep us from being God’s best.”

**Read Luke 10:38-42. So, how can you choose God’s best?**

**What were the good/best choices presented to Mary and Martha?**

Though this may be a familiar story, you can learn from Mary’s example. Jesus basically said that by choosing to be with Him, she had chosen the better thing.

**Why did Jesus say this was the best thing?**

**Why do you think that you (or maybe other students in your student ministry) find it so hard to say no to being busy and yes to “choosing the better thing”?**

Take a few quiet moments now to sit and just “be” with the Lord.

### My Prayer

Lord, help me to choose the best things—including spending time with You.

