

2015 Montreat Youth Conferences **Theta Keynote Resources**

Monday

Kill Bill: Volume 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_cEoK1mXms (Stop at 1:02 second mark)

Closing Litany ©

The world says your story has to be perfect.

But God says, "With you I am well pleased."

The world says you're not good enough and your plot isn't exciting enough.

But God says, "With you I am well pleased."

The world calls you popular, unpopular, too fat, too thin, awkward, fake, overrated, or all kinds of wrong.

But God says, "With you I am well pleased."

The world uses names like bigot, hypocrite, freak, stupid, and hater.

But God calls us each by name.

The world will have you believe that your story isn't worth the investment, isn't worth the time, and isn't worth sharing with others.

But God says, "With you I am well pleased. And I am with you."

The world has it wrong.

The world has *you* wrong.

God says, "You are my child, my beloved."

My child.

My beloved.

You are mine.

Tuesday

9/11 News Montage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HcX3iffQcl>

Sandy Hook Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-LIb-6t5MY>

Ferguson Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5F-8TvvE7Q>

Jon Stewart Charleston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjzrvRKv6Ks>

Malala Nobel Prize

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOqIotJrFVM>

Closing Song: *Fix You* by Coldplay

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What if?

What if?

What if he saw me?

What if he knows the truth?

What if he loves me anyway?

What if he forgives me anyway?

What if he really is the Messiah?

What if every time we are scared, feeling alone in the darkness, unsure of what's next—
what if we aren't really alone?

What if nothing— nothing— can ever separate us from God?

What if our lives are a mess?

What if messy isn't bad?

What if, on the other side of the darkness, there's a light that we can't possibly imagine?

What if he really is the Messiah?

What if we wrestle and end up with a limp?

What if we wrestle and still don't have answers?

What if answers aren't the point?

What if it's more about wrestling with fears, doubts, all that life throws our way... with someone?

What if he really is the Messiah?

What if we can all be forgiven?

What if we can all be redeemed?

What if our lives don't end with a period, but begin with a semicolon?

What if?

What if?

What if he sees us?

What if he knows the truth?

What if he loves us anyway?

What if he forgives us anyway?

What if he really is the Messiah?

Wednesday

Opening Music: *Jesus* by Amos Lee

Modern Family

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_CmBsi17_0

Station Music:

Not With Haste by Mumford and Sons

Psalm for the Searching by Beth G. Williams

Greatest of These by Steve Lindsley

What's Going On by Marvin Gaye

Closing Music:

All Good People by Delta Rae

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv4U9LoDkls>

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What's going on? What's going on?

What's going on when we see a brother or sister on their knees in the streets, asking for a piece of bread or a dollar or two? What's going on when we see *them* as the problem and not circumstances or systems or things out of their control?

What's going on? What's going on?

What's going on when we neglect the voices of our youth, our children, our silenced friends standing by? What's going on when we fail to speak up for them?

What's going on? What's going on?

What's going on when we turn our backs on the people who strain for our attention, sending them out into the wilderness with nothing to take with them? What's going on when we don't walk with them on the journey?

What's going on? What's going on?

What's going on when the dignity or comfort of others is not our priority? What's going on when we put our own so-called reputations first ahead of respect and responsibility?

What's going on? What's going on?

What's going on when we feel our own answers are adequate responses to life's deepest questions? What's going on when we pretend to be something we're not instead of being what people and God need most: for us to be ourselves?

It's time. It's time.

It's time to remember we're all in this together.

It's time to remember our stories are connected.

It's time to remember we've all been created in the image of the living God.

It's time to stand up, to speak, to listen, to learn, to pray.

It's time we do better.

No more Hagar's in the wilderness.

No more Lazaruses thrown under the bus.

No more.

No more.

No more.

Thursday

Opening/Closing Music: *Wasteland* by Needtobreathe

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When we don't know God's plan,

We believe God has not forsaken us forever.

When we don't know God's plan,

We trust the Spirit is with us even in exile.

When we don't know God's plan,

we trust the Spirit will intercede with sighs too deep for words.

When we don't know God's plan,

we remember that Jesus reunited with his friends in the Upper Room.

When we don't know God's plan,

we remember that Jesus says, "I am the bread of life."

When well-meaning people tell us that a tragedy is all part of God's plan,

We remember God says, "For I know the plans I have for you.

Plans to prosper you and not to harm you.

Plans to give you hope and a future."

When well-meaning people tell us God's plan is not for us to question,

We remember Jesus-God in the Flesh-was sent to be with us, walk with us, and guide us even through exile.

When people say things about our stories that are not true,

When people say things about our stories that are hurtful,

When people say things about our stories that leave us with scars,

We remember Jesus reunited with his friends and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread and the scars in his hands and feet.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like the father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
like the first belly laugh in the middle of grief,
God is faithful still.

Friday

Mid-Keynote Music: *What A Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong

Closing Music:

All Good People by Delta Rae

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pv4U9LoDkls>

Woman At The Well Skit

Needed:

-3 Characters- Woman, "Living Water", Jesus

-2 groups of signs with string to hold around the neck

Group 1: Negative words- In this case, we will use five: Sinner, Widow, Adulteress, Barren, and Worthless

Group 2: Positive words- Each word has a counterpart, respectively: Forgiven, Empowered, Faithful, Loved, and Worthy

-Assigned "screamers" spread throughout the sanctuary or in the aisles- preferably enough for each word being used to have one person

-A "well"- represented by a wicker basket or laundry basket covered in cloth, etc.

Five people each wearing a sign with a negative word stand in a line across the stage (or area near the front of your choosing) in the order listed in the materials. It does not matter whether you choose to align them right to left or left to right as long as the well is as far from the term Sinner as possible.

The woman will begin to walk across the stage toward the well. As she approaches the person with the first sign, Sinner, the designated screamer(s) will stand and begin shouting- as screamers tend to do- "Sinner! Sinner!" repeatedly as the first sign-holder removes the sign from his/her own neck and places it on the woman's. Once the woman receives the first sign, the sign-holder will move back and stand with his/her head down, and the designated screamers for the next word will begin shouting and continue until she receives the next sign, and so on. Each time the woman receives a sign, she should become more and more slouched until she is crawling across the stage (representing the heaviness of the false assumptions).

Once the woman has received all 5 signs, all the screamers shout their words chaotically until she collapses at the well, when they all fall silent, even if they were in the middle of their words. They will remain standing until the end of the piece.

Jesus approaches the woman and says- "Do not seek satisfaction from this water, for if you drink of it, you will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I will provide for them will never know thirst."

Jesus then removes the signs from the woman's neck and places them around his own. He gestures to the "Living Water" who is wearing the positive signs, "Forgiven" on the

bottom and each counterpart word in the reverse order of the way the woman first walked across the stage.

The woman begins to walk across the stage away from the well. As she goes, she removes the positive signs from the “Living Water” and places them around the necks of those who first gave her the negative signs. As she approaches each one, Jesus says, “You are Worthy...You are Loved...” and so on. As each person receives a sign, they lift their heads, walk lightly to the front of the stage and smile.

When the woman reaches the last person, Jesus turns to the crowd and says, “You are forgiven!” All those with new positive signs and those who screamed in the beginning reply, “We are forgiven!” (Optional: If possible, a projection can be shown prompting the congregation to say, “We are forgiven indeed!”. If there is no projection screen, you might instead have the sign-holders/screamers reply “We are forgiven indeed!”).