

GIRLS' BIBLE STUDY MONDAY NIGHTS



MELINDA MEYERS

The Reasons To Run

When I was looking for a Bible study I was thinking, "What would most reach the girls personally helping each one grow in her faith?" The book, *Becoming A Woman Of Freedom* stuck out to me as well as the chapter titles, Laying Aside the Old Self: Running With the New Self, Laying Aside the Past: Running With an Eternal Perspective, Laying Aside the Doubt and Fear: Running With Faith and Trust, Laying Aside the World: Running With Godliness. I wanted to challenge all the girls that would be attending from 7th to 12th grade.

I was surprised by the amount of community that was established so quickly within the group. The responses to the Bible study were, at first, typical answers, but as the weeks progressed the level of trust grew. Honesty and personal struggles within the topic came out. The other surprise has been the amount of sharing between the girls.

Hebrews 12:1-2 pictures the Christian life as a race: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus."

I hope that each girl would try to run her race as He intended, throwing off the things that hinder to fix her eyes on Jesus.

CHELISIE LARSON

Freedom to Run

Prior to summer vacation, Mark and Melinda asked if I would be interested in helping with the girls' Bible study in June. As the study, *Becoming a Woman of Freedom* has progressed, I have seen qualities each girl brings to the youth group.

"Running With an Eternal Perspective" was a meaningful lesson and a point we started to trust one another. The message this lesson entailed was not simply about setting aside our burdens; rather, to put into perspective the importance of crying out to God in the midst of struggles. After David's affair with Bathsheba, he became quiet, and in this quietness, depression overwhelmed him. He carried this burden in hopes of erasing his mistakes, but the problem grew. Throughout this lesson, we gave the analogy of a runner carrying a rock realizing how difficult it was to run. As the race moved forward, the rock only grew larger. It is not until we truly drop the rock without looking back that we are healed and can complete the race. The same goes with the burdens we carry in life.

As this study progresses, please be praying for the girls involved. Pray that they continue the desire to be free and share with the youth group their gifts. My goal is for us to continue running the race without looking back and laying our burdens at Christ's feet.

INGRID VATSAAS

Group Transformation

It occurred to me in Bible study that freedom is not necessarily doing your own thing. Most people think of freedom as something that happens on your own, but freedom starts when you are not in bondage to sin, but a slave to God!

Bible study allows me to see girls open up, and I'm growing closer to Elsa and Rachel who I didn't know well. It is neat to pray for each other and see the prayer needs change. We have been praying for community in the youth group and it is starting to happen! I am seeing people step up that didn't before!



Alicia Symington, Chelsie Larson, & Elsa McClun

ELSA MCCLUN

What I Realize

Some things I learned about being a woman of freedom is that Jesus gave us freedom by dying on the cross. We now can make the decision to run the race or not! God is also able to take my troubles. He carries them for me so I can run the race with perseverance!

Vacation Bible School 2006

TRADING PLACES

From July 24-29, kids at FEFC went on a unique tour around the world and heard stories about the difference Jesus makes in the lives of young people world-wide.



From playing with little Mexican toys to reciting a child's Spanish chant, **Alicia, & Felix Juarez** helped the VBS kids discover fun traditions that the Mexican kids enjoy.

Enrique & Becky Fernandez

missionaries to Latin America used pictures & an unlikely story about a defective robot who had a heart & life transformation. They connected this story to their work in Latin America.

The Conrads

(missionaries to Japan) taught a Japanese praise song to VBS kids, & had them see a video of kids in Japan singing the same song! The VBS kids became aware that God can be praised in Asia.

Cicy & Susan Song, Lotus & Hanson

are natives of China. They passed out Chinese items, provided music of China's national anthem, & showed a colorful array of photos in a power point presentation.

Tchotchovi Dablaka

is a Native of Togo Africa, which is located in the Northwest region of the continent, Tchotchovi teamed up with a 20-year missionary, Grace Vandervort. Together they shared about Africa & their passion for Jesus.

A magical show from magician Jack Nordin!



Enjoying the International Food Court with the help of Paulette Goodman & her kitchen crew!



Riding high on the slip-n-slide!



WHAT GOD DID THROUGH VBS!

Praise the Lord for the 128 kids that attended VBS! These kids heard about Christ in creative ways.

On Tuesday was **"Bring A Friend Day"**. Eighteen new kids showed up on that day!

Over 70 people came and volunteered to bring Vacation Bible School to life! The enthusiasm and joy was incredibly visible!

STORY TELLER

Through each story teller that volunteered, VBS kids got a glimpse of Biblical characters. Ruth traded *loneliness for loyalty*. King David traded *sheep for subjects*. Esther traded *beauty for bravery*. Andrew traded *fish for faith*, and Paul traded *violence for victory*.

