

OUTCAST

finding our place
in God's kingdom

Fall Retreat 2018: A Guide for Parents

OUTCAST: finding our place in God's kingdom

Our Fall Retreat is finally here! As promised, here is some more information to let you know exactly what your child will be learning at this retreat. Thank you for allowing your child to participate. Students can expect to have fun, build relationships with other students, and grow spiritually as they learn about the life God wants for them!

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person's life. The best disciple making takes place when a student's parents take the lead. That's why we've created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what your child will learn at their retreat event, along with some questions you can ask your child to reinforce this learning at home.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions. Thank you again for all you do to support and lead your child's spiritual growth.

Overall Topic of *Outcast*: John 4:1-30

Outcast walks through the story of the Samaritan woman at the well and how Jesus interacts with her. This woman has been rejected by almost everyone in her life. She has a less-than-respectable history, and she expects that Jesus will treat her the same way other "religious" people have in her past. But Jesus looks deeper and responds unlike anyone she's ever met. To Jesus, she's not a worthless sinner; she's a valuable child of God, someone worth taking the time to see, know, and ultimately, die for.

Session Topics

1) *On the Outside*. Students will identify what makes someone an outsider and why some people are forced to the fringes of community by looking at the story of the woman at the well. From there, students will begin to identify who the outsiders are in their own communities so they can begin to follow in Jesus' footsteps and reach out to them.

2) *Invite Them In*. Students will learn how to engage those who have been excluded and cast aside. Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman is an excellent example of how to embrace the awkwardness of engaging with people who don't fit our expectations, looking beyond social stigmas, past actions, and basic differences. Students will discover how to make the first move in bringing someone into community.

3) *In Our Shoes*. In a world that leans toward self-preservation and self-centeredness, students will learn how to put themselves in others' shoes and empathize with those who are different. They will discover that we serve a Savior who not only put himself in our shoes, but who offers grace that we all need.

4) *The Great Invitation*. Students will be introduced to the healing and transformation that Jesus brings to his followers. This kind of transformation compels us to share him with others, love what he loves, and value what he values. Jesus was the only one who could heal the Samaritan woman's brokenness, and he's the only one who can heal those who are broken and on the outside today.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

1. What makes someone an outsider in society? What about in your youth group? In our neighborhood?
2. What do you think people see when they look at you? Is there anything you wish they could look past? Here's what I wish people would look past...
3. What kinds of walls do people put up when they feel vulnerable? Here are my go-to wall-building behaviors...What do you think it takes to break down these walls?
4. Why is it so important to be transformed by Christ before you can bring healing and transformation to others?

