



# Summer

## SCHOOL

### WEEK 5 - LEADER GUIDE

“Embrace Your Place” - Message by Andrew Matrone

#### *Start*

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

**If you have ever been stranded in the middle of nowhere or forced to change your plans, where and what happened? What can you remember about that experience?**

#### *Share*

Welcome to our ongoing series entitled, “Summer School.”

When you hear the words, “Summer School,” you immediately begin to think of a place you would rather not be. There is so much to do in the summertime and school isn’t necessarily on the top of most people’s agenda.

We would all rather be at a pool or on vacation in the summer, not sit in a classroom.

In the last few weeks, we have talked about getting out of the classroom and sharing our faith, becoming teachers. We have tackled the very difficult topic of regret and how God wants us to see our regrets as teachers, so we can graduate from condemnation and live free in Christ and pursue the life God has for us. We faced fears that many of us face when it comes to changing the labels we believe about ourselves.

This week, we will be looking at embracing the place that we find ourselves in. We will jump right into a very important story found in the Old Testament about this very thing.

**Read 1 Samuel 16:1-19**

**What stands out to you most about this story?**

**God said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance...” and goes on to say, “...the Lord looks at the heart.” What does this say about God?**

**Do you find it strange that after being anointed King, he went back to attend the sheep?**

## *Grow*

David is anointed King. Scholars believe that David may have been about 15 years old, however, his life did not change overnight. David went right back to tending the sheep. David was anointed King, but not yet “appointed” King. In fact, David spent about 15 years working hard behind the scenes, being faithful, diligently being a follower. During that time, King Saul attempted to kill the young up-and-comer numerous times. Life did not get easier for young David. God had a plan and a future for him, but that future included difficult trials that David would need to embrace to prepare him to lead well in the future as King. God needed to develop David; it was a process.

Andrew spoke about our lives being developed by God and likened it to the way camera film is developed. It is in the “darkroom” that film is developed and the picture clearly develops. God has to do a work **IN** you before he can do a work **THROUGH** you.

**Have you had to go through a “darkroom” process in your life that you would have rather skipped?**

**Whether you are in a “darkroom” season right now, or you have gone through one in the past, what did you learn about God and yourself?**

**Why do you think God uses trials to develop us?**

## *Move*

Sometimes we must go through that place we don’t want to be ... so God can put us in the place He wants us to be. Like David, there were no short cuts in life and he learned to be faithful, loyal and committed to the process God was putting him through. Throughout scripture, God honors faithfulness and obedience. Andrew ended the message talking about the fact that, instead of always praying to be delivered out of something, that we would ask God to reveal to us what He wants us to learn when we are in the difficult situation.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)**

**For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

**What if we truly believed God’s promises more? How do you think it would change our attitudes?**

**All of us go through seasons in life. What season would you say you are in currently? How can your group or community help support you during this season?**

## *Pray*

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

## *To Go.*

### **Psalm 119:1-2 NIV**

**Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.**

*\*Great additional reading by Gene Edwards, "A Tale of Three Kings," is a powerful book about three different kings and how humility and leadership go hand in hand.*