

# FBC CONNECTION

CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH



## One28 Retreat

BY ELSIE BURROW

This past October, the One28 youth group took a weekend-long retreat to Ironwood in Newberry Springs, a wild west themed Christian camp. While this has been the fourth year we have spent the weekend growing in our knowledge and love for God at Ironwood, it never grows old. The staff at Ironwood truly make it their highest priority to accommodate and house large groups of campers comfortably while ensuring that everyone has fun.

The theme of the retreat this year was Abide, taken from John 15:1-11. Taylor Sinclair, the Youth Pastor of the One28 ministry taught the students how to truly abide in God and be in His presence daily. He presented a question to think about throughout the weekend: Why do we need to abide in Christ? Though this time was short, it was thoroughly enriching for all the students and leaders who attended.

In the first session, Pastor Taylor taught that abiding in Christ means having a life-giving connection, a growing dependence, and a constant relationship with Christ.

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We learned that trials should cause us to abide in Christ and experience his perfect peace as referenced in John 15 which talks about how we ultimately depend on Him for everything.

In the second session, we learned that we need Christ to experience life and to bear fruit. Some ways that we bear fruit are in our love (John 15:9-10), in our joy (Psalm 16:11; John 15:11), and in our peace (John 14:27). Additionally, we need Christ in order to fulfill our ultimate purpose in life which is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Small group time is another vital component of our One28 Retreats, and this year was no exception. Small group time gives students an opportunity to open up to one another to share their trials with one another, such as the anxiety or depression that is caused by not abiding in Christ. When we are able to share our burdens with others, it allows them to speak into our lives and to help carry that burden.

Some girls said that this retreat taught them to trust God that his plan was better than theirs. We don't have to be anxious about anything because we know that we are saved by Jesus alone.

Some of the boys talked about how much this retreat blessed them, and how it was such a great experience overall. They shared that the leaders are very encouraging and supportive, teaching them what it means to be a man of God who abides daily in His Word. They noted that Taylor's sermons were remarkable, and it really made them take a step back and examine themselves and how they were personally abiding in Christ. They noticed that this retreat has caused the bond among their group to grow and flourish.

Ironwood, as always, provided such a fun experience for our free time and activities. While there were many spiritual growth opportunities, there were also fun activities throughout the weekend. The activities this year included

horseback riding, paintball, rope courses, skimboarding, escape rooms, and canoeing. Between sessions and activities, other options for free time included Uncle Wally's gift and refreshment shop, as well as volleyball, checkers, and ping pong. And of course, the well-loved snack room was open often to enjoy snacks throughout the day.

*Photo: Ironwood Staff*

## Crossroads Retreat

BY JOY SHIN & AIDEN WILLIAMS



When you think of retreat, what do you think of? Maybe you imagine a rustic cabin in the woods, or a barren retreat site in a secluded area. Perhaps you picture students laughing while playing games, or listening to a series of sermons prepared by a guest speaker. Well, whatever you were imagining, the Crossroads 2023 retreat was better.

Let's start with the AirBnB homes. These luxe resort style homes, located in El Cajon, were like something out of a tropical paradise magazine. Each house had a pool and a number of other amenities for us to enjoy during our stay.

We played billiards, pingpong, cornhole, volleyball, badminton, and the list goes on.

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All of our meals took place at the main house and each meal was diligently prepared (and cleaned up) by a group of students. Whether it was street-style tacos or grilled burgers (which oddly tasted a lot like In-N-Out), the food was delicious and the company even better.

And that leads us to our next point: the fellowship. Put thirty-eight Crossroaders together for a weekend and what is the result? Nothing more than a sweet time of bonding and building Christ-centered relationships.

There was never a dull moment on this retreat; if you were not crying over onions with your kitchen crew, you were slapping your hand across the table in a game of spicy Uno. If you weren't catching up with someone on the patio, you were inside playing "signs." And if all that failed, you were peer-pressured (or should I say, Chris-pressured) to jump into the pool fully-clothed after being accosted with cheeseballs (also Chris) as you entered the house. One student put it this way, "I feel a lot more connected to people at Crossroads - these people are my family." What could possibly make this any better..?

Lastly, but certainly not least: the messages. Everything up to this point would be inconsequential without the Word of God, which binds us all together. We were reminded that it can be a great temptation for us to think of God as a distant figure; more of a concept, rather than the perfect, holy, triune and personable God that He is. All of

this stems from a small view of God and a small view of the gospel. Because of this, it is easy for us to think that God is not as active or as involved as He once was; that the God today is a different God than the one we read about in His Word. This small view of God and the gospel can even lead us to think that we are not as sinful as we actually are; however, this reality is the furthest from the truth.

Over the weekend of the Crossroads Retreat, elder and pastor Shawn Farrell (from Faith Bible Church in Murrietta) wonderfully tackled all of these issues in his mini series "Jesus Is Better". Session 1 established the perfect foundation for

a biblical view of God and of our sinfulness; seeing God's grace, that is more amazing than we could ever comprehend or imagine (Isaiah 6:1-8). Session 2 built upon the foundation previously laid in Session 1; learning the personhood and character of Christ—the God who sympathizes with us, identifies with us and gives us aid (Hebrews 4:14-16); the king who (in His sovereignty) sits on His throne at the right hand of God and stands for His beloved children in need (Acts 7:55-56). Session 3 continued on our failures and fallenness which we saw in contrast to God's wonderful grace

(Luke 21:1-22). Session 4 closed, coming full circle as we saw Christ (in His sovereignty and glorious victory) who is holy and worthy to be worshiped in complete surrender (Revelation 5).



*Photo Credits: Air BnB, Joy Shin, Natalie Chavarria  
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## This Summer at FBC

While several ministries go on break during that summer at FBC, there are still plenty of opportunities to learn, grow, and fellowship together.

Starting Sunday, June 2, from 9-10 am in the West Chapel, join us for a 12-week summer Equipping Hour class. We will study biblical fellowship based on Jerry Bridges' book *True Community*. No book purchase is required. Come and learn how our fellowship with God changes how we fellowship with one another in the Body of Christ. In addition to Equipping Hour, we also have several fellowship opportunities:

- 6/2 Summer Picnic
- 7/7 Courtyard Grill
- 8/4 Courtyard Grill
- 8/25 Member Meeting

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