

West Main & Hillcrest Youth Groups'

CYC Resource Book

Challenge Youth Conference

Pigeon Forge 2015



On the Way

Devo on the Bus

Why are you on this bus? If you are anything like most teenagers going on a church trip, there could be a couple of reasons. Your friends are here. Maybe your parents made you come. Just wanted to ski? There might even be a chance that you are just taking some time away from something at home that has been bothering you. Or maybe you are on the bus, headed to CYC, because you want to learn and grow.

I truly hope that's the case. I hope you have dedicated this weekend to learning more about God and growing closer to Him. We are going to have a lot of fun! We are going to ski, snowboard, tube, hike, shop, eat, laugh, and make tons of memories. All of those things are great, but none of them compare to getting a little closer to your Creator.

PURPOSE is a word packed with a lot of meaning.

When you hear the word PURPOSE, what do you think about? Name one object and write about it's intended purpose (example: a hammer is made to drive nails into wood).

What would you do with that object if it stopped performing it's intended purpose?

How would you describe your PURPOSE on this earth? (Not the typical "Bible class answer, but just what you think.)

Read Ecclesiastes 12: 13

After reading this verse, how would you describe your purpose on this earth?

God has an intended PURPOSE for you. That's pretty neat to think about. The God who made everything that exists has a specific PURPOSE that He wants you to live for.
You are intended to do something. Your whole life has PURPOSE. Every year has a PURPOSE. And more specifically, your next 3-4 days has an intended specific PURPOSE. Let's ask the same question that we started with:

WHY ARE YOU AT CYC?

PRAY: Pray about your weekend. Pray about the relationships you already have and those that will be formed. Most importantly, pray about your PURPOSE for this weekend.

Winding it Down

Before you Go to Bed

What did you experience today with your youth group that will serve as awesome memories in the future?

What's on your mind tonight as you go to bed that you want to talk to God about?

The Time is Here

Your First Day of CYC- Friday

There is no doubt that you are in a different environment today! When you opened your eyes this morning you were in a strange room. When you opened the door to your hotel room, you probably felt a new crisp air. When you looked around outside, you definitely saw some new land forms! It is a beautiful day!

Every day, we are going to give you the tools to be connected to CYC. We are going to give you some verses to consider, some questions to answer, and prayers to pray. Keep this notebook with your Bibles every time you go to CYC.

Here's our promise: If you keep up with this guide, the impact of CYC will be far greater than ever before.

Read Matthew 5: 1-11

When it comes to the theme of CYC (PURITY), what verse stands out the most to you from Matthew 5:1-11? Write out that verse.

What do you think it means to be "pure in heart?"

What are some things that make it harder for Christian teenager to be pure in heart?

What's on your mind tonight as you go to bed that you want to talk to God about?

Don't Miss Anything

It's a Huge Day at CYC!- Saturday

Today is the longest day of CYC. You are going to sing a lot! You are going to listen a lot! Please make it a point to take everything in! Don't miss anything!

As you prepare for CYC today, here are a couple of things to think about:

What were some of the things you remember about last night's session at CYC?

What was it like to worship with this many Christians at one time?

What lessons do you remember from the SWAT drama team?

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

What are some reasons that adults might “look down on” or “despise” teenagers?

How can you be an example to adults in:

Speech: _____

Conduct: _____

Love: _____

Faith: _____

Purity: _____

PRAY:

Pray about your own life in the context of 1 Timothy 4:12. Chances are you struggle at being the example in AT LEAST one of these areas. Pray about your speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

Winding it Down

Before you Go to Bed

What did you hear at CYC today that really stuck in your mind?

What did you experience today with your youth group that will serve as awesome memories in the future?

What's on your mind tonight as you go to bed that you want to talk to God about?

Make the Choice!

Last Day of CYC- Sunday

Today is the last day of CYC. You should be already packed up, bus loaded, and you might already be on your way home. Remember, the worst thing you can do with your experience at CYC is NOTHING. Doing nothing with the convictions you have is incredibly dangerous.

Here are some things to think about today:

What have been some of your favorite parts of CYC?

What are some things you have heard at CYC that have stuck in your mind?

Read James 1: 19-25

What's the worst thing you could do with the information you received at CYC?

Typically, hearing these lessons at CYC makes us realize that we need to change some thing(s) in our lives. What is it that you need to change?

PRAY:

Pray about the overall impact the CYC has had on you this year. Pray for the specific changes that you are resolved to make. Find someone you trust and ask them to help you make those changes. Pray about the next few days as you go back to school and your normal home life.

Don't forget to look in the back of this notebook to help with setting some goals and taking action!

Keynote: Lonnie Jones "Take Charge"

An Action Plan for Your Spiritual Goals

You are going to have a very important week. It's the trial week that will really show if your change will be authentic. It's easy to feel spiritual while you are in a spiritual place, but face it: your school is probably not the most spiritual of places for you. The best way to help yourself is to have a clear vision for this week and a plan for reaching that vision.

In seven words or less, what is your overall spiritual goal for this week?

Monday: My mission today is: _____ At

_____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

Tuesday: My mission today is: _____ At

_____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

Wednesday: My mission today is: _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

Thursday: My mission today is: _____ At

_____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

Friday: My mission today is: _____ At

_____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

Saturday: My mission today is: _____

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

At _____ a.m./p.m. I will _____.

1 Peter 1:13- "Therefore, PREPARE your minds for action; be SELF-CONTROLLED; set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed." (emphasis added).

Pigeon Forge Schedule

Friday Night

7:00 Doors Open
7:30 Singing
7:50 Contribution Announcement
8:00 Singing
8:15 Kyle Butt "Purity In Spirit"
9:00 Break
9:30 S.W.A.T.



Saturday Morning

8:30 Doors Open
9:30 Fun with Ben & Travis
9:45 Singing
9:45-10:45 Youth Leaders/Elders/Chaperones Ballroom – Counseling 101 with Lonnie Jones
10:00 Reed Swindle "Purity In Body"
10:30 Break
10:45 Singing
11:15 Ben Hayes "Purity In Social Media"
Noon Break

Saturday Afternoon & Night

4:30 Doors Open
5:30 Cornerstone
6:00 Ambassadors
6:30 Break
Saturday Night
7:00 Welcome Back/Fun with Ben & Travis
7:30 Singing
8:00 Lonnie Jones "It's A Heart Issue"
9:00 Dismiss to Devotionals

Sunday Morning

7:30 Doors Open
8:30 Sunday Worship
Singing
Lord's Supper
Contribution
Lonnie Jones "Take Charge"
9:30 Dismiss

The Pigeon Forge Line Up:

Kyle Butt "Purity in Spirit"
Reed Swindle "Purity in Body"
Ben Hayes "Purity in Social Media"
Lonnie Jones "It's A Heart Issue" and "Take Charge"
S.W.A.T.
Ben & Travis
Jon Podein
Jason Isbell
Chuck Morris
Dale Jenkins
Cornerstone (Faulkner University)
Ambassadors (Freed Hardeman University)

Where We're Staying:

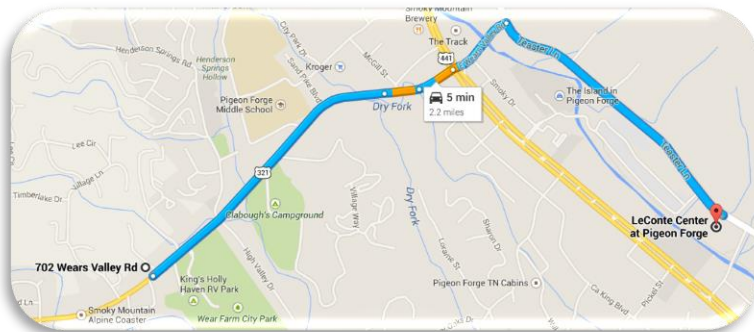
HearthSide Cabin Rentals in the Smokies

702 Wears Valley Road
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Phone: 888-993-7655 (Toll Free)
Local: 865-429-0955

Girls Cabin – “A View for All Seasons”



Guys Cabin – “Mountain Top Retreat”

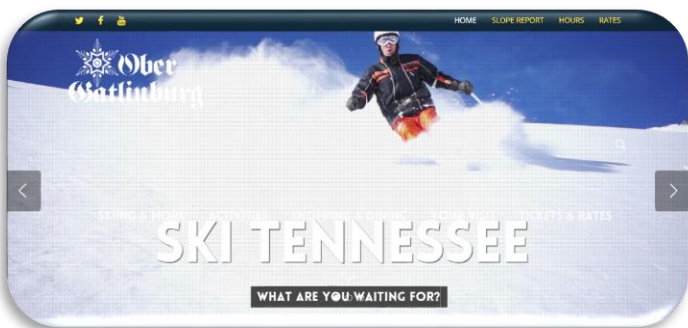


LeConte Center – CYC Conference



Friday Options:

- A - Base 110.00 (fee,cabin) pool table, air hockey, theater, putt-putt
- B - Base + Coaster 130.00
- C - Base + Ski 149.00 *beginners add \$3 for ski school
- D - Base + Snowboard 152.00
- E - Base + Bracelet 124.00



THE CHALLENGE OF PURITY

CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2015

CHALLENGE OF PURITY

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by Lonnie Jones

BY LONNIE JONES

Neutral Purity. That's been the problem. We've taught AGAINST impurity and taught against it well. But when it comes right down to it we haven't taught ABOUT purity. We've said, "Stay away from these books, movies, internet sites, thoughts, people, groups, and substances." But we've rarely armed our listeners (students) with the directions to find purity much less maintain it.

Purity is NOT about what one decides NOT to do, look at, read, consume, or wear, but rather a mindset or a self-identity that once embraced makes those decisions by default.

In talking about purity we need to understand that as Christians our position CANNOT be neutral. It is insufficient and ineffective to simply state a position of NOT.

Colossians 2:16-23 teaches that merely saying, "do not touch, do not taste, do not handle" have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. The missing connection was not that they didn't have good rules. They were not "holding fast" to the Head (Christ).

Connection to Christ is the answer to the Purity Challenge. Purity is NOT simply about what we DON'T do; but rather about what we decide to be a part of---Connection to Christ. Once we establish "whose I am" we then clearly understand "who I am."

Attitudes are the thoughts that lead to decisions and decisions lead to actions. The attitude or mindset that my primary relationship is to Christ then redefines, clarifies, and or limits all other relationships.

Everyone knows the sequence of events that occurred between David and Bathsheba. No one argues about the appropriateness or propriety of any of it. What we fail to realize is the incremental thought process prior to the actual lust, adultery, lying, treason, and murder. How does the Shepherd King abuse his sheep that way? It takes a story about a sheep - a stolen ewe lamb - to wake him up to his actions. But how did he get there? It was a thought process. It started with how he saw himself and ended with how he saw (devalued) the people involved.

Purity is about changing the way we see ourselves and the way we see others. Proactive purity is the conscious decision to pursue an environment, both internally and externally, that promotes and protects purity rather than a reaction that simply avoids impurity. We are leading our students. We come to a river. We can tell them, "Don't get wet, stay out of the water or you will freeze, drown, or be swept away." We can debate the safety of boats versus kayaks or we tell them to seek a bridge. Purity is not about NOT getting in the water. Purity is finding the path that was laid out, constructed for the sole (soul) purpose of getting across the river and not even having to give the water a second thought.

Purity In Body by Reed Swindle

"It's my body, I can do whatever I want to with it!" This rationale seems as strong as any. I eat everyday and for the most part, I get to choose what I eat. I like cheeseburgers and I do not like onions. I like pizza but I don't want veggies on it. I can go to any restaurant and order it however I want it.

"It is my body, I know what I like to put on it." For the most part, we chose our own clothes in the morning. Some of us may have some help from time to time making sure it looks good but we can chose our own style.

"It's my body I can choose to play sports or march in the band with it." We can make choices about how we use our time and energy. We can make choices about things we like and do not like to do with our bodies. Why then are there limitations in the Bible on what I can do with my body?

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Paul tells the Corinthians that they are the temple of God. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." The repeated use of the word "you" is important. Here the word "you" is plural. This means he was talking to all of them. All of you are the temple of God.

But, when you get to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 a very similar passage is found. There is one slight difference. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." The repeated use of

“you” and “your” here is singular. YOUR body is the temple of God. YOU were bought at a price. Glorify God with YOUR body and YOUR spirit.

You may be wearing the skin that shapes your body but the reality is clearly different. If you have decided to follow Jesus by being baptized, then you have made a choice and a promise. You chose to “give your life to Jesus.” You promised to live like you believe He is the Son of God. By choosing to follow Him, you chose to follow Him fully--completely.

There are times that we may not really want to follow Him because that means we may or may not be able to do things we have a personal desire to do. There are times we have the option of breaking our promise.

If you gave your life to Christ, then your body is not yours any more. It is His.

Purity of Spirit

by Kyle Butt

The ancient city of Babylon was one of the most remarkable cities in the history of the world. A massive wall that rose over 30 stories circled the sprawling metropolis. This wall was, in some places, 75 feet wide, wide enough to drive three chariots side by side without them touching each other. The defenses of the city were so legendary that the consensus of the ancient world was that it was impregnable—it could not be taken.

One of the primary reasons for this general impression was the fact that the city had its very own running water supply. The mighty Euphrates River rolled powerfully into the city through an opening in the wall designed especially for that purpose. As long as the river flowed, which of course it always did, the opening was secure and the city could not be besieged by an enemy.

It did not hurt the city that a portion of the river was diverted around the walls so that it formed an ever-moving moat that surrounded the city. In truth, even if the river somehow miraculously stopped, the opening into the city was rather small and could have been guarded rather easily—if the guards had diligently kept their posts.

But what if the guards got lazy? What if that handful of military men decided to take a break? Or, as history informs us, what if they decided to join in a drunken festival with the rest of the city of Babylon and leave the river and its opening untended?

As it turned out, Cyrus, the general of the opposing army, devised a way to divert the Euphrates River away from the city wall, leaving the opening unprotected by the flowing water. Still, Cyrus' plan would be difficult to accomplish if the Babylonian guards were keen at their posts and ready to sound the alarm. But alas, they were not. In fact, the guards had taken leave of their posts, and Cyrus' men entered the city almost unopposed.

Once the enemy had penetrated the wall, however, they did not loudly proclaim their entrance with trumpets and victorious shouting. On the contrary, they pretended to be drunken Babylonian revelers, enabling them to pour into the city in vast numbers. By the time the Babylonians knew what had hit them, the city was taken from the inside, not the outside.

When we look into the Proverbs, we find a statement that reminds us of the Babylonians' failure. In 4:23 we read: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." Solomon, the wisest man in the world at the time, is reminding us that once something gets inside our "hearts" (what we would call our minds or spirit), it is often too late to stop its damage. The time to be diligent and defend our hearts and minds is before the enemy gets in. It is for this reason that we must always be on alert about what we let into our minds, and how we let our minds think. "What kind of movies, television shows, video games or music are we listening to"?

Are there "hidden enemies" in the things we let into our hearts that can destroy us from the inside? What we let in our minds is not a trivial matter, because it is out of our minds that the "issues of life" flow forth. Stay awake, guard your post, and protect the precious spirit that God has given you.

Refiner's Fire

by Larry A. Davenport

In the beginning God created this world. It was a perfect world. Man and woman were fully equipped to obey the creator, but sin entered the world, and because of sin we are morally corrupt. Genesis 8:21b says, "...the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth;..."

In 1 Peter 2:11 the apostle implores, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." The biblical view here is that while man is sinful and corrupt, he is also fully capable and responsible to turn to God.

Turning to God is not something that just happens by accident. Left to our own vices we will undoubtedly fail and fall. Turning to God means making good (God) choices. It means having a Christ-like attitude in all that we do. It is not easy. It is sometimes painful. But the pains, the

trials, and the challenges are important. With each one, God is maturing us and preparing us to be His servant. So be on the lookout and make choices that will bring you closer to Him.

Brian Doerksen wrote the lyrics to a popular devotional song titled Refiner's Fire.

Refiner's fire my heart's one desire is to be holy -- set apart for You, Lord.

I choose to be holy set apart for You, my Master ready to do Your will.

The inspiration for the song was the first part of Malachi 3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;..."

I am pretty certain you have heard the illustration about how the refiner purifies silver. (I really like the story so I am happy to hear it again.) The story has been told in various ways but it almost always begins with someone observing a silversmith going about his trade and the meat of the story ensues.

The silversmith held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that, "in order to burn away all the impurities, it is necessary to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames are the hottest."

As the silver heated up the impurities would float to the top and the silversmith would skim away those impurities. This process would repeat itself over and over with the impurities floating to the top and being skimmed away.

The young observer thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then he thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

He asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered, "yes." He not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The young man fell silent for a moment. Then he asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined"? He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it."

The point is obvious. God is the refiner and we are that which is being refined or purified. The trials that we experience in this life are the refiner's fire and God uses those experiences to mature us into his image.

Our speakers at Challenge Youth Conference this year will deliver some very timely lessons that will encourage and equip us as we choose Purity.

It truly is your choice. Choose to be holy -- choose purity.

I pray that you always reflect the creator in all that you do and that the lessons learned at CYC 2015 will serve as a tool to light your path.

CYC Conduct Contract 2015 Sign Below and Turn In

1. I will read all of the Conduct Contract – I will sign it – I will take it seriously
2. I understand the purpose of CYC, so I listen intently to the lessons and sing my heart out in praise and worship.
3. I will build unity on this trip. Unity with my youth group, my friends, and all adults. I will not destroy others efforts to build unity.
4. When I see Jerry Elder, I will offer him a piece of gum.
5. I understand the purpose of the CYC trip to learn about God, fellowship with His people and help people like me get to Heaven.
6. I will challenge myself to reach higher and grow bigger than I ever have before.
7. I will not cause the bus/autos to pull over in another town so the group leader can drop me off at a police station.
8. I will be where I'm supposed to be.
9. I will stay with my group.
10. I will keep conversation holy.
11. I will not play "switch", "all mixed up" or freeze tag on the bus/vans/car.
12. I will take my bible to CYC/ I will use it.
13. I will not complain about housing/rooming assignments to anyone. If I do, that person will be Susan White and only Susan White. Susan White is THE only authority on cabin and room assignments.
14. I will wear a seatbelt.
15. I will step outside of my comfort zone and talk to other people besides just my friends. I know this is called Christian fellowship and that means that I will be there for anyone on this trip.
16. I will be nice and include others. There is no room for selfish ambition or vain conceit among Christians. ***Phil 2:3-4: 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.***
17. I will not complain on this trip.
18. I will not spend *all* of my money at the rest stops before we even get to Gatlinburg.
19. I will do my part in making our youth group a welcoming youth group.
20. I will not do anything that will result in a meeting with the elders.
21. I will leave the drama with mama – I will NOT bring drama on this trip.
22. I will take care of ALL property at the cabin. I will pay for any damages.
23. I will keep a positive attitude on this trip.
24. I will honor my God. I will honor my parents. I will honor the church.
25. I will not feed the bears.

SIGN HERE _____