

*the Great  
Exchange*

**EPISODE**

**WKND**

*February 6-8, 2026*

# SCHEDULE

// Feb 6-8

## FRIDAY

**5PM** — BLOCK PARTY

**6:30PM** — DOORS OPEN FOR SESSION 1

**9:30PM** — GROUP TIME

**11:00PM** — END OF DAY 1

## SATURDAY

**8:30AM** — CHECK-IN

**9:30AM** — DOORS OPEN FOR SESSION 2

**12:00PM** — FREE TIME

**6:30PM** — DOORS OPEN FOR SESSION 3

**9:30PM** — GROUP TIME

**11:00PM** — END OF DAY 2

## SUNDAY

**CELEBRATE WITH YOUR CHURCH**

# HOUSE RULES

1. **Respect others' personal property**
2. **Do not use inappropriate language**
3. **No weapons, lighters, controlled substances, vapes or vaping materials.**
4. **Phones and other smart devices can only be used during designated times at the main sessions and for camera purposes throughout the weekend.**
5. **Always stay with your leader. No wandering off alone.**



# WELCOME TO EPISODE 2026!

## **HEY THERE!**

This weekend, middle and high school students all across Lynchburg have gathered to worship King Jesus. We truly believe an encounter with Jesus changes everything. Our prayer for you this weekend is that you experience the love of God and have a lot of fun along the way.

This year we are focusing on how Jesus traded places with us, took our punishment upon Himself, and now through faith offers us something we could never earn for ourselves: life everlasting. No matter what you walked into this weekend carrying, your story does not have to be defined by despair, mistakes, sins, and regrets. Jesus offers hope. Jesus can change your story.

So, wherever you go to school, wherever you go to church, and whether or not you're still figuring your faith out, we're so glad you're here.

Welcome to The Great Exchange.

***The Episode Team***



## **TRIP LEE** // Guest Speaker

We are so excited to have **Trip Lee** as the speaker for Episode 2026! Trip is an author, teacher, hip-hop artist, and thought leader. He regularly preaches and teaches at Christian conferences and events and has performed his music for thousands of listeners around the world.

As a hip-hop artist, Lee's music has received critical acclaim. He's won a Stellar award and has been nominated for several Dove Awards. His last three albums have debuted at #1 on the Billboard Gospel charts.

Trip's deepest desire is to declare the goodness and glory of Jesus Christ. He is excited to speak to the students of Lynchburg, VA about the moment Jesus took our sins and clothed us in righteousness.



## **THE LIBERTY WORSHIP COLLECTIVE** // Worship Leaders

We are thrilled to welcome back the **Liberty Worship Collective!** This crew of worship leaders are no strangers to Episode Wknd and are some of the most talented student musicians at Liberty University.

The Collective leads worship for Liberty's convocation, the largest weekly gathering of Christian young people in the world. They travel all over the world to lift high the name of Jesus in churches, conferences, and events. They are especially excited to be on their home turf worshipping alongside middle and high school students in Lynchburg, VA.

We can't wait to gather the next generation of our city and lift high the name of Jesus! Episode 2026 will be an unforgettable time in God's presence.

# MERCH DROP



Hoodies + Beanies + Hats + more

Sat. 12-5pm

# FREE TIME

Something special planned  
for every church

This weekend is going to be unforgettable. Check with your ministry leader to find out what activities are planned for your group's free time.

# HEY LEADERS!

We want to encourage you to spend time between now and Episode lifting up your students and the devotion times in prayer. Your students are wrestling with big questions about who God is, what the church is all about, who they are and what they believe. Pray that God will use this weekend to help them begin to find answers to those questions. Pray that God will help you bring the verses your students will interact with to life. Ask him to show you how you can encourage your students to continue to live out and apply the truths you discuss after they return home.

# FIRST STEPS

// Salvation

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 10:9-10** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**Romans 10:13** For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

So what does God want you to do?

Admit - That you are a sinner in need of The Savior.

Believe - That Jesus died for your sins and rose again.

Confess - Jesus as The Lord and Savior of your life.

You can take these steps by praying this prayer to God:

"Dear Lord, I know that I am a sinner and that my sin has broken my relationship with you. Thank you for dying on the cross to pay for my sins. I receive you, Jesus, as my Savior. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you for giving me a new life in you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# EPISODE WKND 2026 DEVO GUIDE

The devotions in the student handbooks can be read individually. However, in order for the students to begin to internalize and personalize the content and ultimately understand how best to live it out beyond this weekend, it is best to facilitate a group discussion.

To help you do that, we want to provide you with the following guide. It does not necessarily provide you with all of the answers that you will need, but it is meant to help you begin thinking about how to direct the discussion with the students in your room. It's important that you spend time before the weekend planning and preparing for these conversations with your students.

We also want to encourage you to spend time between now and Episode lifting up your students and the devotion times in prayer. Your students are wrestling with big questions about who God is, what the church is all about, who they are and what they believe. Pray that God will use this weekend to help them begin to find answers to those questions. Pray that God will help you bring the verses your students will interact with to life. Ask him to show you how you can encourage your students to continue to live out and apply the truths you discuss after this weekend.

## LEADER GUIDE 1: The Holiness of Jesus

Start your group by asking an icebreaker question to get your students talking and comfortable. One icebreaker for this devotion could be, "If you were an astronaut, what is one tiny mistake or flaw that would freak you out before going into space?"

After a brief introduction, this devotion opens with the illustration of a NASA space suit and why astronauts must rely on something flawless in a dangerous environment. Read the opening paragraphs and then ask your students, "Why does perfection matter so much in this illustration? What happens if there's even one small flaw?" Help them connect the seriousness of the example to the importance of Jesus' holiness.

Read the next section of the devotion and then read 2 Corinthians 5:21 together. Pause and ask, "What do you think it means that Jesus 'did not know sin'? How is this different from Jesus simply knowing what sin is?" Allow a few students to share. Explain that Jesus faced temptation like we do, yet never sinned. His purity wasn't partial; it was complete and flawless.

Transition into the Scriptures mentioned in the devotion, such as Hebrews 4:15 and 1 Peter 1:19. Briefly summarize that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God who never failed in any way. Ask the group, "Why does Jesus' holiness

matter so much for the Gospel? What would happen if Jesus had sinned even once?" Guide students to see that only a perfect Savior can save imperfect people.

Invite your students to reflect on their own lives. Say something like, "Jesus was sinless, but we aren't. Yet the Holy Spirit lives in every believer to help us grow in holiness. What's one area in your life where the Holy Spirit might be nudging you to sin less or pursue purity?" Be sure to listen well and create a safe space for honesty. Next, point students toward the practical side of holiness. Ask, "What are some small daily choices that help us become more like Jesus? How can the Holy Spirit help us make those choices consistently?" Encourage them to think about things like avoiding certain influences, choosing integrity, using their words wisely, or guarding their thoughts.

As you wrap up, remind your students that Episode WKND begins with the identity of Jesus on purpose. Say, "Before we can understand what Jesus did, we have to understand who He is. Starting with the holiness of Christ prepares our hearts for everything else this weekend." Ask, "How does focusing on who Jesus is shape the way you approach the rest of Episode?"

Close your time by encouraging students to thank God for sending a perfect, sinless Savior. Pray together, asking God to help each student see Jesus clearly this weekend and giving them strength to grow in holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Discussion Notes:**

# Devotion 1

## The Holiness of Jesus

“[For our sake] He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

### - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Welcome to Episode WKND 2026! Our prayer for this weekend is that God works in mighty ways, not just in your heart, but throughout your school, church, and the entire Lynchburg community. This weekend, our theme is ‘The Great Exchange,’ and each devotion will walk you through our theme verse, 2 Corinthians 5:21, helping you see who Jesus is, what He did, why He did it, and what we now receive because of Him. As you read, reflect, and discuss each devotion, we pray that your eyes will be opened to see Jesus more clearly as the Savior who made the Great Exchange.

Before an astronaut steps into space, every inch of the suit must be carefully inspected, tested, and sanitized. NASA engineers need to check every piece and remove the tiniest speck of dust. Why? Because perfection is essential in space. A pin-sized hole could cause the suit to lose pressure, a single contaminant could compromise the entire oxygen system, and even the tiniest flaw could lead to disaster—possibly even death. Every detail must be thoroughly examined and analyzed to ensure it is flawless. This suit is the astronaut’s lifeline and their only protection in a dangerous environment.

One mistake could cost everything, so the suit must remain completely clean, pure, and perfect.

Just as an astronaut’s survival is dependent on a flawless suit, the salvation of a Christian is dependent on a flawless Savior. In the first part of 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Apostle Paul writes that “He made the one who did not know sin...” This phrase does not mean that Jesus did not understand what sin is; in fact, this is the complete opposite! It means that Jesus never once gave in to temptation and sinned. He never disobeyed the law or the will of God the Father. Even though he lived in the same broken world as we live in, Jesus remained completely untouched by the corruption of sin. Hebrews 4:15 describes that Jesus is not “unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but [He is] one who has been tempted in every way that we are, yet without sin.” Every action, thought, and word from Jesus was completely pure, holy, and obedient to God.

If Jesus had sinned even once, He could not have been perfect. But He was. He lived every moment in complete righteousness. His perfection wasn’t just moral; it was absolute holiness. 1 Peter 1:19 describes Jesus as “a lamb without blemish or defect,” and John 1:29 declares Him to be “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” From His birth to His death, not a single trace of sin could be found in Him. Every law He kept, every word He spoke, every action He took revealed the flawless heart of God. Where every human being has fallen short, Jesus never did.

The truth of Jesus' holiness is foundational to the truth of the Gospel. If Jesus had any sin, any blemish, any imperfection, He could not stand in our place. A broken person could not fix the brokenness found in this world. However, because Jesus is holy, he is the hope and light of the world! His sinlessness shows that salvation does not come from our effort, but through the perfect obedience of the one who has never failed. And if you're not a follower of Jesus, the beauty of the Gospel is that the One who never failed stepped in to those who do. All of us need a Savior, and Jesus invites us to come to Him, rest in him, and trust Him.

Although we are sinful and can never be sinless like Jesus, His holiness calls us to sin less. The same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus to resist temptation and be victorious over sin now lives within every believer. His perfection should challenge us to live holy and pursue purity, truth, and integrity in every facet of our lives. Whether it is to avoid looking at what your friends are looking at, not saying what your teammates are saying, or not taking part in other sinful thoughts or actions, Jesus wants us to live a life that is worthy of the Gospel. We follow His example not to earn God's favor, but because we already have it. When we understand who Jesus is, the Holy Spirit shapes us into who we are meant to become.

Before we can understand what Jesus did, we must first understand who He is. This weekend, as we explore The Great Exchange, remember that our story starts with a perfect, sinless Savior who is flawless in every way.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. If you were an astronaut, what is one tiny mistake or flaw that would scare you the most before going out to space?
2. Why does the holiness of Jesus matter so much or the Gospel?
3. What's an area where the Holy Spirit can help you sin less or grow in holiness in your life?
4. How does starting the weekend by focusing on who Jesus is help prepare your heart for the rest of Episode?
5. What are you most excited for about Episode WKND this year?

## **LEADER GUIDE 2:** **The Greatness of Jesus**

Start your group by asking an icebreaker question to get your students talking and comfortable. One icebreaker for this devotion could be, "If you could create your very own specialty pizza, what would it be called, and what toppings would you put on it?"

After a brief introduction, this devotion opens with the illustration of how the word "great" is used in many different ways, including to describe the taste of pizza and the size or extent of something such as the Great Flood. Read the opening paragraphs and then ask your students, "How does understanding the qualitative and quantitative meaning of great impact your understanding of Jesus' finished work on the cross?" Help them connect the grammatical lesson about "great" to Jesus' perfect work on the cross for their salvation.

Read the next section of the devotion and then read Psalm 145:3 together. Pause and ask, "How does reflecting on the greatness of God impact your view of your need for Him, and what quality or attribute of God, or part of His work, stands out to you right now?" Allow a few students to share. Explain that because of Jesus' qualitative and quantitative greatness, we can have eternal life with Him and worship Him. He lived the life we could not live and died the death we deserved for our sin and defeated the grave, so that we might live forever with Him.

Invite your students to reflect on their own lives. Say something like, "To fully understand how great Jesus is, we must first realize our need for Him. In what ways do you find yourself to be lacking, inadequate, and not truly 'great'?" Be sure to listen well and create a safe space for honesty.

Then, transition into asking your students to reflect upon Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the payment of sin debt on the cross. Say something like, "Jesus took on the sin debt of each one of us and paid the price for it on the cross. Why does it matter that Jesus paid all of your sin debt on the cross, bearing your guilt?"

Explain that Jesus is so great that His love for them is unchanging. You may say something like, "There is nothing that you could do to earn your way to God, and nothing you do will make God love you any more or any less. He is perfect because you will never be. He is great because He is God, and He wants to bear your guilt and shame and give you forgiveness and freedom that only comes from Him. Because of His greatness, you can have eternal life and joy with Him even though you are undeserving of this gift of salvation."

As you wrap up, remind your students that Episode WKND begins with the understanding greatness of God and His sacrifice on the cross for the salvation of His people. Because of His greatness, ask the students to reflect upon how the greatness of God impacts their own lives. Ask your students, "How will you live the days ahead differently if Jesus is truly this 'great'?"

Close your time by encouraging students to thank God for His greatness and love for them. Pray together, asking God to help each student see their need for Jesus clearly this weekend and giving them hearts that praise Him for His greatness.

**Discussion Notes:**

# Devotion 2

## The Greatness of Jesus

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.  
His greatness is unsearchable.”

- **Psalm 145:3**

As we look at The Great Exchange as our theme for the weekend, let's explore the word "great" and ask: What makes the exchange between Jesus and me so great? Why is that worth celebrating?

The word "great" can be understood in two different ways: qualitatively (something "exceptional") and quantitatively (something "very large"). When you say, "that pizza was great", you most likely mean that pizza was delicious; you are using an adjective to speak of its quality. On the other side, when you use the word "great" in quantitative terms, you're noting the vast size or extent of something (we often refer to Noah's flood as "The Great Flood", for example).

So then, how does this grammatical lesson about the "great" relate to Jesus? The answer is clear: understanding this in the context of Jesus' work on your behalf is essential for our eternal joy. When we consider what Jesus did on the cross in terms of its quality and quantity, we see that He and His work are truly great.

Yesterday in the devotionals, we looked at who Jesus is. He is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God who is the origin of all that is good, right, and holy. All He has ever done is perfectly in step with His character. In other words, as He is perfect, His work is perfect. It is qualitatively "great" and needs no improvement. Because of that, Jesus' work on the cross for your sins and mine was completely sufficient. There's no one who can say: "I could do that better".

But here's the reality for us: We cannot buy our righteousness, work off the debt of our sin, or argue our case before a holy God. All we can do is bring our guilt and cry out to a merciful God to save us from our sin. In that moment of faith, something incredible happens. Jesus takes our sin and gives us His righteousness. He trades our guilt for His perfection, our shame for His purity, and our failure for His forgiveness. His qualitative greatness has been freely given to you, and you are seen as righteous by God. That is the Great Exchange!

But then, how can we understand the quantitative greatness of who Jesus is? There is still a massive gap between who God is and who we are. Perhaps one of the best practices we can follow is to remind ourselves of these differences, not to feel ashamed, but to stand in awe of the greatness of Jesus. For example...

- God is perfectly holy- but we are unclean and broken.

- God is perfectly just- but our view of justice is often unfair.
- God is perfectly loving- but our love changes based on who deserves it.
- God is perfectly unchanging- but our character changes with our mood or our day.

The list could go on, but Jesus, being both fully man and fully God, came to bridge that gap so He could bring us to God. Jesus came to us and died on what should have been our cross. The quantitative gap between man and God is a great divide that can only be bridged by the One who has the power to do so: God Himself. Jesus, who is God in the flesh, hung on the cross and completed His great work that only He could do.

Earlier in the devotion, we looked at how understanding how great Jesus is to our joy. If we don't see the need for Him, we'll never come to Him with our sin, struggles, and secrets. Because of this, we will miss out on the eternal joy that only Jesus offers. However, when you see how much you need Him, you'll start to see how great He truly is. You'll want to talk about Him because there's no greater news. You'll follow Him because no one has ever loved you more.

***Jesus. Is. Great.***

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When someone says that something is great, what do they usually mean?
2. In what ways do you find yourself to be lacking, inadequate, not truly "great"? Write those out or say those aloud as a confession to yourself and to God.
3. What quality or attribute of God, or part of His work, stands out to you right now in this moment? Why is that on your mind?
4. Why does it matter that Jesus paid all of your sin debt on the cross, bearing your guilt?
5. How will you live the days ahead differently if Jesus is truly this "great"?

## **LEADER GUIDE 3:** The Heart of Jesus

Start your group by asking an icebreaker question to get your students talking and comfortable. One icebreaker for this devotion could be, “If you were a superhero, what is one superpower you would want to have, and what would you use it for?”

After a brief introduction, this devotion opens with the illustration from the Marvel franchise, specifically the character, Iron Man, who acts selfishly throughout the movie series but ends up displaying a heart of selflessness and sacrifice when he gave his life for all of humanity. Read the opening paragraphs and then ask your students, “Why is Iron Man’s sacrifice so significant in this illustration? What would’ve happened if he chose selfishness over selflessness in Avengers Endgame?” Help them connect the Marvel movie example to the selfless and sacrificial heart of Jesus.

Read the next section of the devotion and then read Romans 5:7 together. Pause and ask, “When you think about a good person, what do you think of?” Allow a few students to share. Explain that none of us fit the description of “good” except God. Ask the students, “What are some moments and experiences in life that can make it difficult to believe that God is good?” Allow a few students to share. Explain that even when circumstances are ever-changing, God’s character stays the same – God is good all the time.

Read Romans 5:7 again and continue into verse 8. Then read the other Scriptures mentioned in the devotion, such as John 4:34 and Romans 6:23. Pause and ask, “Why would a perfect God choose to die for sinners?” Allow a few students to share. Briefly summarize that Jesus’s heart in dying on the cross to glorify His Father and to save the world out of His love for humanity.

Next, ask the group, “How does God’s love and heart shape the way you see Jesus?” Guide students to see that Jesus’ love for and goodness towards people led Him to die on the cross for our sins, not our own “goodness.” Invite your students to reflect on their own lives. Say something like, “Because a good God gave His life to make us good in His sight, we never have to wonder if we’re good enough. How does this shape the way you see yourself?” Then ask, “Where do you struggle to see yourself as God sees you?” Be sure to listen well and create a safe space for honesty.

Next, point students toward the practical side of God’s heart. Ask, “If you know God is good, what would it look like for you to trust Him in a situation that feels unfair or uncertain right now?” Encourage students towards responding in prayer, reminding themselves of God’s heart displayed in His Word, and reflecting on God’s goodness to them in the past.

As you wrap up, remind your students that Episode WKND is about understanding who God is and what He did for us because of that. Say, “Because God is good

and loving, He sent His Son to save us. Understanding the heart of Christ allows our hearts to trust Him in every circumstance and live with that kind of love too." Ask, "How does knowing God's heart for you shape the way you approach the rest of Episode?"

Close your time by encouraging students to thank God for His heart – His love for us and His goodness towards us by sending a perfect Savior. Pray together, asking God to help each student see Jesus' heart clearly this weekend and giving them strength to believe that God is good and that He loves them.

### **Discussion Notes:**

# Devotion 3

## The Heart of Jesus

“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

### - Romans 5:7-8

Our God is great. He is great in size, ability, and quality. But what moves His heart? What would lead Him to send His Son from the glory of heaven into a broken world, all to die for broken people? That's the question that this devotion explores. Understanding why Jesus did this helps our joy to be multiplied as we look at the heart of God.

In the 2010s, Marvel released a string of over twenty movies, establishing a larger narrative in their universe that began with Iron Man in 2008 and concluded with Infinity War in 2019. We quickly learn that Tony Stark, the main character and inspiration behind Iron Man, is impressive in both skill and strength. He uses the most modern equipment to battle villains, is an incredibly innovative thinker, and almost single-handedly destroys armies. In a sense, he's a great superhero.

However, if you've ever watched the movies, you see that he's not a very good person. His motives are often selfish; his heart is more consumed with personal glory

and recognition than the good of his fellow man. You can remember him early on being questioned by the other Marvel characters, who wonder if, when the time comes, he'd actually be so willing to sacrifice himself for the good of his fellow man. He's great, but in their minds, not that good.

This makes what we see in Avengers: Endgame so powerful and what draws us to Iron Man. In the final movie, he has everything to lose, including his own family, peace, and comfort. Still, for the sake of humanity, he steps back into the fight, ultimately to (SPOILER) willingly giving his life. After the movie, we walk out not only saddened by the loss of Iron Man but also in awe of his heart. For the first time, you don't just see his greatness, but you also see his motive of selflessness, which gives you greater appreciation.

In the last devotion, we walked through the greatness of Jesus, but if we only focus on that, we are missing part of the story. His greatness is also matched by His selfless goodness. We can be more in awe of Jesus because of His pure motive of putting others as higher than Himself.

Here's the bottom line: when Jesus died on the cross, He did so to glorify His Father and to save the world. In John 4:34, Jesus tells others that His food, what gave Him sustenance and purpose, was to do the will of the Father. EVERYTHING Jesus did was never for His personal glory or to lift Himself. As selfish humans who are focused only on loving ourselves, we cannot fathom

this! However, there was never a moment when Jesus lived for Himself.

And here's the beauty of it all: we are the beneficiaries of Jesus' selflessness. He died to make us, broken sinners, right with His Father. He stood in our place so that the guilty could be made righteous. He shed His blood so that those who deserved death could receive life (Romans 6:23). When Jesus went to the cross, He knew exactly what it would cost Him. Every drop of blood, every insult, and every moment of pain was not because Jesus is great. It was because Jesus is good and loves us so much.

Paul writes in Romans 5 that someone might be willing to die for a person who seems "good." But none of us fit the description of good. Scripture says that, because of our sin, we were God's enemies- lost, broken, and far from Him. And yet, that's where the heart of God shines in that even when we wanted nothing to do with God, He loved us. His heart is stirred to save and rescue broken people and welcome His enemies into His family. Why would a perfect, holy, and just God do this? Because God is love and He is good.

When we believe these truths, it changes how we live. If we believe the Gospel of a good God giving His life to make us good in His sight, we never have to wonder if we're good enough. If we believe the Gospel of a good God who forgives sinners, then we can forgive those who sin against us (Ephesians 4:32). If we believe the

Gospel of a good God who denied Himself for our good, then we can reflect Him by living with that kind of love. Believing the Gospel changes everything!

***Jesus is great, but He's also good and loving.***

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When you think about what makes a person "good", what do you think of?
2. What are some moments and experiences in life that can make it difficult to believe that God is good?
3. Why would a perfect God choose to die for sinners?
4. If you know God is good, what would it look like for you to trust Him in a situation that feels unfair or uncertain right now?
5. How does God's love and heart shape the way you see Jesus? How does this shape that way you see yourself?

## **LEADER GUIDE 4:** The Great Exchange of Jesus

Start your group by asking an icebreaker question to get your students talking. One icebreaker for this devotion could be, "If you stepped into the world of Narnia, what creature or character do you think you'd be and why?"

After a brief introduction, this devotion opens with the story of Edmund in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Read the first few paragraphs together, then ask your students what stands out to them about Edmund's story. Help them see how his betrayal, guilt, and brokenness mirror our own spiritual condition.

Continue reading about Aslan stepping in as a substitute for Edmund. Pause and ask, "Why do you think Aslan's sacrifice hits so hard emotionally? What does it reveal about the idea of someone taking your place?" Let students draw the connection naturally between Aslan's death and the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Move into the explanation of what we receive because of Jesus. Read the part about Edmund receiving not only forgiveness, but a new identity and a new future. Ask, "What does it mean to receive a new identity from Jesus? Why is that more powerful than just being forgiven?" Help them see the difference between being cleared of guilt and being declared righteous.

Read Romans 5:17 together. Then ask, "What does it mean to receive the gift of righteousness? How does it change how God sees you?" Make sure students understand that righteousness isn't earned, performed, or achieved. It is received because of what Jesus has already done.

Invite your students to reflect on their own identity. Say something like, "Just like Edmund, we all carry labels from our past, some placed on us by others, some we placed on ourselves. But through the Great Exchange, Jesus gives us a completely new identity. What labels do you think God wants you to let go of so you can live as His child?" Allow space for honest reflection without pressure.

Shift the conversation toward purpose. Ask, "If Jesus has already made you righteous, how should that change the way you live, serve, and love the people around you?" Help your students see that identity leads to action. Righteousness received becomes righteousness lived out.

As you wrap up, remind your students of the full movement of the Great Exchange: Jesus takes our sin, and we receive His righteousness. Say, "Jesus didn't just save you from something; He saved you for something. The Great Exchange makes you a child of God, a co-heir with Christ, and a light in this world."

Close your time by praying together, thanking Jesus for His sacrificial love and asking Him to help each student live with confidence, purpose, and identity as they go out and live the Gospel in their schools and community.

**Discussion Notes:**

# Devotion 4

## The Great Exchange of Jesus

“...Those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through one man, Jesus Christ.”

### - Romans 5:17

In C.S. Lewis' first installment of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, “*The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*”, we meet the Pevensie children, who consist of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. As they explore the world of Narnia, they meet Aslan, the king of Narnia, and the White Witch, the evil queen of Narnia.

In this adventure, Edmund becomes rude and greedy, which ultimately leads him to join forces with the White Witch, betraying his family in the process. As he does this, he is given the title “traitor” and must be executed by the White Witch. Because of Edmund's sin, he deserves judgment and death.

That is where Aslan steps in. Aslan then makes a deal with the witch and offers to give his life as a substitute for Edmund. So that night, Aslan, a good king, walks alone to the Stone Table, is mocked, shaved, humiliated, and killed. Aslan dies in Edmund's place.

But the next morning, the impossible happens. The Stone Table cracks and Aslan rises again, stronger than

ever before, and is victorious over the evil White Witch. Edmund, the kid who deserved death, walked free and does not have the label of “traitor” anymore. He is forgiven, restored, and welcomed back into his family with love. Even further, by the end of the book, Edmund is crowned as King Edmund the Just. The one who betrayed becomes the one who is known for wisdom and righteousness.

This is exactly what happens to us because of Jesus. All weekend, we have explored 2 Corinthians 5:21 and what the Great Exchange is, in that Jesus exchanged His life for ours. But the Great Exchange does not end with what Jesus did for you, but it now includes what you receive because of Him. Just as Edmund walked away from his sin and betrayal with a new identity and a new future, you receive something more than just forgiveness. You are gifted with the right standing and righteousness of God. You are no longer labeled by your past mistakes or sins. You are loved, clean, accepted, and made brand new.

The Bible calls this the gift of righteousness. In Romans 5:17, Paul says that through Jesus we “receive the overflow and the gift of righteousness.” This means that you don't have to earn God's approval by trying harder or pretending to be perfect. Rather, Jesus gave you His standing, and that when God sees you, He sees the perfection of His Son covering your life. You stand before Him as righteous, not because of what you've done, but because of who Jesus is.

Even further, we become a part of His family, living as sons and daughters of the King. The label “traitor” now becomes “child,” and the one who was far off is now welcomed in. As God’s children, we become co-heirs with Christ, which demonstrates how deeply God loves and pursues those who are broken.

This new identity was never meant to stay hidden because gifts are meant to be lived out and shared. When you realize that you’ve been made righteous and become a child of God, everything changes. It changes how you walk into your school, how you interact with your friends, and how you contribute to your community. Understanding, believing, and living out the Gospel will transform every part of your life, and it all comes from the love of Jesus and the Great Exchange.

Jesus did not just save you from something. He saved you for something. We are made righteous so that we can live as light throughout the darkness of this world. The Great Exchange transforms everything about us! He brings death to life, slavery to sonship, bondage to freedom, and filthiness to cleanliness. Because Jesus took your place, you can now live in righteousness.

So, as we wrap up Episode WKND, remember the movement of the greatest exchange in history: Jesus, who had no sin, chose to become sin because of His great love and goodness. Because of this, we can become the righteousness of God and live a life that changes our world for Jesus. This is the Great Exchange.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In the Narnia story, Edmund’s identity shifts from “traitor” to “king.” What label from your past has been the hardest to shake, even though Jesus now calls you “child”?
2. Romans 5:17 says we “receive the gift of righteousness.” What part of that identity is hardest for you to believe is actually true about you?
3. If Jesus has already given you His righteousness, how should that change the way you interact with people at school, at home, or in your friend group?
4. Being a co-heir with Christ means you share His future and His mission. What would it look like to live with that kind of confidence and purpose this week?
5. How can everything we’ve talked about this weekend—the Great Exchange, your new identity, God’s love, and His righteousness—shape the way you go out and live the Gospel in your community after Episode?











# EPIISODE

WKND