**True North: Trusting God in a Wild World***…*

VBS 2025 is here! Kids from all around will be dropped off in the middle of the wilderness this week. Like you, this will all be new to them! The overarching goal of "True North" is to show children that Jesus is their "True North" – a reliable and trustworthy friend they can always depend on, especially when they feel lost, alone, powerless, or in need of hope and help. It aims to deepen their connection with Jesus and help them apply Biblical truths to their everyday lives.

21 And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Israel was lost in the wilderness for 40 years. Many of us have been, or perhaps still are, lost in our own circumstances. This week, we will equip the kids with the knowledge and truth about Who God is the tools they can use to find True North!

How would you “find your way”?

* Ask for help
* Compass
* Sun & Stars

It is the exact same spiritually!

**Day 1: When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.**

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise." (Matthew 7:24)

Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)

**Day 2: When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.**

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11:28)

Bible Story: Jesus teaches about God's love for us (Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14)

**Day 3: When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus.**

"'Don't be afraid,' he said, 'Take courage. I am here!'" (Matthew 14:27)

Bible Story: A Roman officer trusts Jesus (Matthew 8:5-13)

**Day 4: When we need hope, we can trust Jesus.**

"And his name will be the hope of all the world." (Matthew 12:21)

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life (Matthew 26:47–28:8)

**Day 5: When we need help, we can trust Jesus.**

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Bible Story: Jesus gives the Great Commission, and the Holy Spirit comes

(Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-12)

We're excited about the impact "True North" will have on our children as they discover how to confidently follow Jesus in their own "wild world."

**The Second Mile**: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let’s dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

**Monday –** VBS Day 1: When we wonder, we can trust Jesus. It is easy to wonder and then wander. Things happen that we don’t understand. We wonder why and can wander from the faith. Yet, we can always trust Jesus. A pilot trusts his gauges. A hiker trusts his compass. We must trust Jesus.

 Key Bible Verse: "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise." (Matthew 7:24)

Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)

Prayer: Holy Spirit we pray for you to move parents to bring their children. Fill this place with hearts ready to trust Jesus. Strengthen and bless the volunteers as they present you to their hearts. Let us all see you as never before. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Tuesday –** VBS Day 2: When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.

Key Bible Verse: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Bible Story: Jesus teaches about God's love for us (Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14)

Prayer: O Lord, our God. May these little hearts never feel alone. May they know that you are with them, even until the end of the age. But, if they do, may they remember this teaching about Jesus. We pray your continued blessing over this VBS and that it would be effective in accomplishing your will to build your Kingdom. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Wednesday –** VBS Day 3: When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus.

 Key Bible Verse: "'Don't be afraid,' he said, 'Take courage. I am here!'" (Matthew 14:27)

Bible Story: A Roman officer trusts Jesus (Matthew 8:5-13)

Prayer: Father in Heaven; hallowed be your name. Jesus told us to let the children come to Him. May be make a path for them to do just that. Give us strength and ALL the fruit of the Spirit to accomplish your will here at Mentor to reach these children. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Thursday –** VBS Day 4: When we need hope, we can trust Jesus.

 Key Bible Verse: "And his name will be the hope of all the world." (Matthew 12:21)

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life (Matthew 26:47–28:8)

Prayer: Lord, we believe. We believe that Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross as punishment for our sins and to win our salvation. We believe that He rose from the dead on the third day to win new life for us. Pierce the hearts of all who hear these words and save them we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Friday –** VBS Day 5: When we need help, we can trust Jesus.

 Key Bible Verse: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Bible Story: Jesus gives the Great Commission, and the Holy Spirit comes (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-12)

Prayer: Dear Lord. Thank you for this week. Thank you for the children who came, parents who brought them, volunteers who led them, our church’s focus on reaching students, and most of all…thank for Jesus! Lord, may this be just the beginning and may we go all the more. In Jesus’ name. Amen.