



WHILE  
YOU'RE  
AWAY

WK 1 - JULY 4  
**CELEBRATE**  
KYLE DANA, FD CAMPUS PASTOR

## INTRODUCTION

With July 4th upon us, summer vacations in full swing and after a year of isolation, most of us feel like celebrating. We may be celebrating freedom from the bonds of our household or the freedom we enjoy in our country. The question Pastor Kyle places before us this weekend is, when was the last time you stopped to celebrate God and all He's done in and through your life?

## DISCUSSION

1. Share a tradition you and your family participate in during summer vacation or on the Fourth of July.
2. Eternity has already begun for those of us who have crossed the Faith Line. Have you ever considered celebrating God's presence in your life, and if so, what would that celebration look like?
3. Discuss Pastor Kyle's statement, "We limit ourselves if we only acknowledge God's awesomeness and invite His will into our lives, but we don't look for Him, anticipating He's already present."
4. Read the account in **John 21** of Jesus after His resurrection. Pastor Kyle relates how the disciples recognized Jesus' voice while they were fishing and then comments, "The disciples were able to experience the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary when they didn't overlook Jesus." How do you experience our extraordinary Jesus during ordinary times in your life?
5. State one characteristic of God you're thankful for and why.

## TAKE ACTION

1. Contemplate how the Holy Spirit works in and communes with you throughout your days. Then, then take brief moments to stop and celebrate the presence of God who dwells in you.
2. Schedule at least a half hour to focus on celebrating God, whether it's a walk in nature, singing, reading from the praises in the Psalms or spending a time of solitude praising and listening for God.
3. Before or after a meal, ask each family member to share what God's presence means to them. If you're single, invite a friend or family member over for dinner or go out and do this exercise with them.

## RESOURCES

*Lord, Give Me A Heart For You* by Kay Arthur  
*Flying Closer To the Flame* by Charles Swindoll  
*Glory Days* by Max Lucado